

UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
DISTRICT OF MINNESOTA

FAIR ISAAC CORPORATION, and) CIVIL ACTION
myFICO CONSUMER SERVICES, INC.) NO. 06-4112 (ADM/JSM)
)
vs.)
)
EXPERIAN INFORMATION SOLUTIONS,)
INC.; TransUnion, LLC; and) Courtroom 13 West
VantageScore SOLUTIONS, LLC; and) Wednesday, April 1, 2009
DOES I through X) Minneapolis, Minnesota

H E A R I N G O N

**TransUnion's MOTION TO BIFURCATE FOR A SEPARATE TRIAL ON
PLAINTIFFS' BREACH OF CONTRACT CLAIM
[DOCKET NO. 572]**

**VantageScore's and TransUnion's MOTION FOR SUMMARY JUDGMENT
DISMISSING CONTRACT-RELATED COUNTS (COUNTS 13 AND 14)
[DOCKET NO. 575]**

**DEFENDANTS' MOTION FOR SUMMARY JUDGMENT DISMISSING
TRADEMARK-RELATED COUNTS (COUNTS 1-4, 6 AND 7)
[DOCKET NO. 579]**

**DEFENDANTS' MOTION FOR SUMMARY JUDGMENT DISMISSING ANTITRUST
COUNTS (COUNTS 8-12)
[DOCKET NO. 585]**

**DEFENDANTS' MOTION FOR SUMMARY JUDGMENT DISMISSING
FALSE ADVERTISING COUNTS (COUNTS 5-7)
[DOCKET NO. 594]**

**PLAINTIFFS' MOTION TO STRIKE EXHIBITS 49 AND 50 OF
BRYAN GANT'S REPLY DECLARATION
[DOCKET NO. 659]**

BEFORE THE HONORABLE ANN D. MONTGOMERY
UNITED STATES DISTRICT JUDGE

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* * * * *

1 (9:00 a.m.)

2 P R O C E E D I N G S

3 IN OPEN COURT

4 THE COURT: Thank you. Good morning. Please be
5 seated.

6 THE CLERK: The matter before the Court is Fair
7 Isaac Corporation, et al. v. Experian Solutions, Inc., et al.

8 Counsel, would you please note your appearances for
9 the record.

10 MR. SCHUTZ: Good morning, your Honor. Ron Schutz
11 of the Robins, Kaplan, Miller & Ciresi law firm on behalf of
12 the plaintiffs.

13 In the courtroom today also on behalf of the
14 plaintiffs are Rick Rule and Joe Bial from the Cadwalader law
15 firm in Washington, D.C.

16 At the second counsel table we've got Randy
17 Tietjen, Mike Collyard, and Chris Larus.

18 Also in the courtroom today, your Honor, is the
19 general counsel of Fair Isaac, Mark Scadina, right back
20 there, and Renee Jackson, in-house counsel for Fair Isaac.

21 Thank you.

22 THE COURT: All right. Thank you.

23 Counsel?

24 MR. MILNE: Good morning, your Honor. Robert
25 Milne with the White & Case law firm on behalf of Experian,

1 and with me today from White & Case are my colleagues Jack
2 Pace, Chris Glancy, and Brian Gant at the second table.

3 And also with me today is Ann Sterling, in-house at
4 Experian, in the back row.

5 Thank you.

6 THE COURT: Mr. Jacobson.

7 MR. JACOBSON: And, your Honor, Mark Jacobson from
8 Lindquist & Vennum for Experian as well.

9 THE COURT: All right. Counsel?

10 MR. GARDNER: Good morning, your Honor. My name
11 is Jim Gardner. I represent TransUnion. With me is my
12 partner Dao Boyle and my trusty guide Lew Remele, and John
13 Blenke, who is the general counsel of TransUnion who's here
14 today.

15 THE COURT: All right. Does that conclude
16 appearances?

17 Ms. Berens?

18 MS. BERENS: It just goes on and on, your Honor.

19 THE COURT: I know.

20 MS. BERENS: Barbara Berens and Justi Miller on
21 behalf of defendant VantageScore Solutions, LLC.

22 THE COURT: Good morning. Does that conclude the
23 appearances?

24 (No response)

25 THE COURT: Well, it was one of the most elaborate

1 April Fools' jokes I've ever seen for you all to come here
2 and gather just to tell me you've resolved this case.

3 (Laughter)

4 THE COURT: But perhaps not.

5 All right. We'll proceed first, as I understand
6 the parties have agreed, with arguments on the antitrust
7 claims. That's counts 8, 9, 10, 11, and 12. I guess we've
8 allotted 30 minutes of argument for each side on those
9 cases.

10 MR. MILNE: Yes, that's correct, your Honor.

11 THE COURT: And then I intend to take a break for
12 about ten minutes and then we'll move on to the trademark
13 claims, 20 minutes per side, and finally with what I've
14 called the contract claims at ten minutes per side.

15 MR. MILNE: Your Honor, Robert Milne again for
16 Experian.

17 I will be handling the antitrust claims for the
18 defendants, but before we start the argument there is a
19 preliminary matter that we wish to at least raise with the
20 Court, and that is the issue of these supplemental
21 submissions that came in from the plaintiffs, one on Friday
22 and the second one in the late afternoon on Monday. And it
23 was unclear to us whether that material was -- your Honor was
24 contemplating that it would be fair game for oral argument
25 today, just to take the antitrust submission, which is the

1 one that came in, as I say, late afternoon as we were getting
2 on planes to head out here. That submission, you know, and
3 basically in the guise of providing corrections to the
4 record, what the plaintiffs did was to submit 26 new
5 exhibits, 20 of which don't even purport to be corrections to
6 anything in their brief, and included among that material is
7 two whole deposition transcripts without any citation,
8 pinpoint citation, as well --

9 THE COURT: Well, let's not use up argument time
10 on this. It's my intent to decide this case on the briefs
11 that have been submitted. If it turns out that I have to
12 refer and look to the declarations that are submitted after
13 the fact, then I'll let you know and we'll figure out what we
14 do about it, but I think we have an abundance of material and
15 briefing on the main issues and there's been a lot going on
16 before -- after the briefs have been submitted that I choose
17 to just ignore, so let's get to the argument on the antitrust
18 claims.

19 MR. MILNE: Okay. Thank you, your Honor. And
20 actually, we wish to make use of your courtroom technology
21 here --

22 THE COURT: Okay.

23 MR. MILNE: And I have some PowerPoint slides and
24 I have hard copies of these which I can hand up.

25 THE COURT: All right.

1 (Documents handed to the Court)

2 MR. MILNE: And I'll just note for the record that
3 I offered the plaintiffs a copy if they would be willing to
4 exchange with us theirs and they declined.

5 THE COURT: Surprise, surprise.

6 MR. MILNE: Yes.

7 THE COURT: All right. Let's just move ahead
8 today.

9 MR. MILNE: Okay. And also, your Honor, I'd like
10 to reserve ten minutes of my 30 for rebuttal if that --

11 THE COURT: You may as long as it comes out of
12 your 30.

13 MR. MILNE: Okay.

14 THE COURT: John, I'm going to ask you to keep an
15 eye on the time.

16 MR. MILNE: Okay. Well, your Honor, to get to the
17 argument here, at the outset, what I'd like to emphasize here
18 and to ask the Court to keep in mind as you consider these
19 antitrust claims, that what Fair Isaac is attempting to do
20 here really is to subvert and pervert the antitrust laws on
21 multiple levels.

22 Number one, what you have here is a long-time,
23 well-entrenched monopolist that is claiming that a competitor
24 that over a three-year period has managed only to gain a few
25 points of market share nonetheless somehow stands a dangerous

1 probability of monopolizing that same market.

2 Number two, you have a plaintiff that is coming in
3 here and claiming injury based on the fact that it had to
4 lower its prices to respond to low-price offers from the
5 competitor defendant, and the plaintiff is asking you to put
6 a stop to that low-price competition.

7 And number three, you have a plaintiff that is
8 coming in here and claiming to be a champion for consumers,
9 for customers, when at the same time that plaintiff is asking
10 you to dissolve the only new competitor that has offered
11 choice to customers that's come along in years and in a
12 situation where customers are delighted to have that choice.

13 I put up on the slide here just some of what we
14 obtained in third-party discovery here from customers and
15 from Fair Isaac, and it's crystal clear from that discovery
16 that customers are happy that VantageScore has been there to
17 offer choice and to give them the ability to leverage lower
18 prices. Fair Isaac itself received feedback like that from
19 customers. So it's important to keep these issues in mind as
20 we think about the antitrust claims here.

21 Now, time isn't going to permit me to cover the
22 detail of what's in the extensive briefs, but today what I'd
23 like to do is first of all answer any questions that your
24 Honor may have, but in addition to focus on three major
25 themes or issues that we think really compel summary judgment

1 here.

2 The first is the absolute lack of standing, the
3 failure to establish antitrust injury; number two, the
4 failure of proof on the merits; and number three is the sort
5 of really remarkable existence of evidence that actually
6 affirmatively contradicts the plaintiffs' claims of
7 wrongdoing here.

8 So I'll start with standing. And as we've said
9 from the beginning of this case, your Honor, there is
10 something perverse about a long-time monopolist coming in and
11 suing a start-up company and accusing it of monopolization.
12 It would be as though Microsoft turned around and sued a
13 small start-up operating system developer and accusing it of
14 monopolizing the market.

15 THE COURT: But isn't there also something pretty
16 unusual about cooperation among the three bureaus and the
17 relationship in the field? I mean, there aren't that many
18 players in this field.

19 MR. MILNE: Well, your Honor, a couple things
20 there. Nothing unusual at all about cooperative joint
21 ventures. Those are ubiquitous in the industry. There's
22 nothing inherently problematic about companies coming
23 together, especially when they are coming together to form a
24 new competitor. I mean, it's undisputed here that for years
25 the only effective three-bureau competitor in this space was

1 Fair Isaac. The only entities really capable of coming in
2 and offering effective competition were the three bureaus.

3 The thing that Plaintiffs have raised in the past
4 is this whole idea that if you add up the market shares of
5 the three bureaus in respective data, that they control all
6 of the data, and when we were before you earlier on the
7 motion, the 12(c) motion, they were at that time claiming a
8 conspiracy with respect to data. They were claiming a
9 boycott. They were saying that the bureaus had conspired
10 with one other to deny access to data. Now that claim has
11 gone away. There's no possible basis for such a claim. The
12 facts as we set forth in the brief make clear that, number
13 one, Equifax has entered into this preferred partnership
14 arrangement with Fair Isaac where they are now working
15 together arm in arm to develop new scores and to distribute
16 existing scores and to give long-term access to data, and the
17 two -- the other two, Experian and TransUnion, continue to
18 distribute the Fair Isaac scores to lenders. They continue
19 to work with Fair Isaac to improve their existing scores. So
20 the idea that there's something about the fact that the
21 bureaus control an input, there's no basis to that, and so
22 there's nothing about that that makes this case somehow
23 different.

24 Now, as I say here, you know, the plaintiffs are in
25 here and again a long-time monopolist is suing a start-up

1 company. Antitrust is very suspicious of lawsuits --
2 antitrust suits by competitors against one another and
3 there's a good reason for that, and that's because
4 competitors have an incentive to use the antitrust laws to
5 thwart competition and not to protect competition. And that
6 suspicion is embodied in the antitrust injury doctrine which
7 we submit applies with a vengeance in this case, and it
8 applies both with respect to damages and with respect to
9 injunctive relief. And let me first talk about damages.

10 Now, let's go to the first slide there, Bryan.

11 The Supreme Court has made clear in the **Atlantic**
12 **Richfield** case and other cases that a competitor plaintiff
13 cannot sue based on the consequences of nonpredatory
14 low-price competition. There's no claim of predatory pricing
15 in this case, your Honor. That's crystal clear from the
16 Supreme Court's teachings. Fair Isaac's damage model here is
17 based in large part on that basic theory. Their expert,
18 their damages expert, calculates damages on the basis that
19 Fair Isaac had to lower its prices to its customers in
20 response to low-price offers from VantageScore. And the
21 right-hand side of this slide, your Honor, has some quotes
22 from their expert's report, and it's clear that that's what
23 he's doing. So in other words, the theory of damages here is
24 that if it hadn't been for VantageScore, Fair Isaac would
25 have been able to charge more to its customers and therefore

1 they're entitled to recover that additional profit as
2 damages. That stands antitrust injury on its head and it's
3 flatly barred by the Supreme Court case law.

4 In addition to that, the entirety of Fair Isaac's
5 damage model is predicated -- and let's go to the next slide
6 here. This is another quote from their damages expert -- is
7 predicated entirely on the assumption that VantageScore would
8 never have been introduced. In other words, they are basing
9 damages on the idea that had there -- but for VantageScore,
10 they would have made more money. They are seeking damages on
11 the basis of increased concentration and lessened
12 competition. That is forbidden under the **Brunswick** case,
13 under the **Cargill** case and others that we've cited in our
14 papers. It's just flatly forbidden. So the bottom line is
15 that Fair Isaac's damage theory fails and summary judgment is
16 appropriate as to that, which cuts across all of their
17 antitrust claims.

18 The same goes for Fair Isaac's claim for injunctive
19 relief to the extent -- and remember, they're seeking
20 dissolution here, dissolution of VantageScore. It cannot
21 claim injunctive relief on the fear that in the future it may
22 lose sales or lose profits because of the continued presence
23 in the marketplace of VantageScore. That same kind of
24 reasoning is what's barred in cases like **Cargill** and
25 **Brunswick** and the like. But in addition to that, the case

1 law requires -- and this isn't disputed -- that Fair Isaac
2 has to show -- to qualify for injunctive relief, Fair Isaac
3 has to show a real and immediate threat of harm, competitive
4 harm, antitrust injury, and Fair Isaac can't come close to
5 doing that here.

6 Number one, VantageScore has been on the market for
7 three years now and it has not even come close to denting
8 Fair Isaac's monopoly position, so where is the immediate
9 threat? What has changed that would say that Fair Isaac
10 faces a threat in anything like the near term of -- or at any
11 point from being driven from the marketplace? As I mentioned
12 before, Fair Isaac continues to have access to data and
13 distribution three years down the road. Fair Isaac has
14 entered into this preferred partnership arrangement with
15 Equifax which makes it a preferred -- they're working arm in
16 arm on a long-term basis. And Fair Isaac's chief executive
17 -- and we cited these quotes in our brief, the opening brief
18 at page 11 -- told the public that this arrangement is
19 going -- will secure our long-term future.

20 And Fair Isaac's economist, their expert Professor
21 Noll, said that because of this preferred partnership, that
22 the very fact that Equifax is now committed to cooperate with
23 Fair Isaac going forward will necessarily undermine the
24 long-term prospects for VantageScore. And since VantageScore
25 is the supposed agent of Fair Isaac's harm, the idea that

1 VantageScore is impaired going forward again undercuts any
2 kind of argument that Fair Isaac faces a real or immediate
3 threat of harm.

4 And then finally you have -- and let's go to the
5 quote here. As recently as a couple of weeks ago,
6 Fair Isaac's chief executive is telling investors publicly
7 that he continues to be optimistic about the company's
8 future, no suggestion of a threat of being driven out of the
9 marketplace or impairment to his business as a result of
10 competition from VantageScore or the activities of the credit
11 bureaus. Now, Fair Isaac can't tell investors one thing and
12 this Court another thing.

13 So, basically for those reasons and others in the
14 brief, their claim for injunctive relief fails as well, and
15 without a valid claim for damages, without a valid claim for
16 injunctive relief, they simply have no standing. That cuts
17 across all of the antitrust claims.

18 So, briefly, Judge, I want to turn to my second two
19 themes -- the second of my three themes, which is the failure
20 of proof. We get into the detail in the briefs. I'd like to
21 just focus to give you a flavor, your Honor, on their claim
22 -- as you know, they claim that there is a conspiracy between
23 the credit bureaus to impose a price floor, to increase
24 artificially the price of VantageScore to a level -- not
25 lower than the price a bureau was charging for the FICO

1 score.

2 Under controlling summary judgment case law,
3 including the **Matsushita** case, including the **Blomkest** case
4 from the Eighth Circuit that we cite in the briefs,
5 Fair Isaac has the burden on summary judgment of presenting
6 evidence that tends to exclude even the possibility of
7 independent conduct. They can't come close to doing that
8 here.

9 Most importantly, when you look at the evidence
10 that they submit, they have none that shows that the
11 bureaus communicated -- sure they were communicating with
12 each other. They had a joint venture. But after extensive
13 discovery, they have not been able to come forward with any
14 evidence showing that the bureaus actually communicated on
15 the subjects of the supposed conspiracy: price floors, some
16 of the other conspiracy claims that they make and that are
17 detailed in the briefs. When you look at the evidence,
18 you'll see that their claims, the things they sort of
19 articulate as fact, are not borne out by the evidence that
20 they cite.

21 So on the one hand what Fair Isaac tries to do is
22 they try to sinisterize perfectly routine joint venture
23 communications, and again, when you look at that evidence I
24 think you'll see that. But then on the other hand what they
25 do is they take purely internal credit bureau documents,

1 internal deliberations of a particular bureau on things like
2 prices, things like market conditions or expectations about
3 what the market may do with no suggestion, no linkage that
4 any such internal deliberations were communicated among the
5 bureaus. The essence of this claim is agreement and they
6 have not come close to establishing agreement here.

7 And just to give a flavor for the ways in which
8 they take liberties with the evidence, I want to focus on two
9 things.

10 On the slide here is an excerpt from their
11 opposition brief and they're discussing the minutes of an
12 early joint venture meeting in 2005, and they say: "When
13 [those] are read together with a written business plan that
14 was distributed at the meeting, they show ... that the
15 bureaus discussed ... pricing." And the clear tenor of all
16 of this was that this was supposed to have been a
17 conspiratorial price discussion about the price floor, what
18 they're claiming here. They didn't submit the actual
19 business plan to the Court. They submitted the minutes. The
20 minutes don't talk about pricing, but they didn't submit the
21 written business plan. That business plan we attached and
22 you can see what it says about pricing. Yes, the word
23 "pricing" appears, but it says that retail pricing will be
24 established by the individual credit bureaus. CRA stands for
25 Credit Reporting Agency. So it says the opposite of what

1 they would in effect have the Court believe it says.

2 Okay. The second one I want to focus on -- these
3 are really their two big pieces of evidence on the existence
4 of some kind of price floor conspiracy and these are these
5 handwritten notes from the consultant, Mercer, Oliver &
6 Wyman, and they say in their brief that it reveals a
7 discussion about pricing, again creating the impression that
8 it was a discussion about a price floor conspiracy.

9 What the notes show is that the subject of the
10 discussion was a Washington, D.C. presentation that was made
11 to regulators shortly after the launch of VantageScore. And
12 you can see from the notes here that when you work down,
13 they're talking about the subject of the presentation and
14 then underneath it is -- subheading one is the structure of
15 the presentation, and then underneath that is "key messages"
16 for the presentation, "Each bureau [will have a] good feel,"
17 and then it goes through some of the aspects of VantageScore:
18 stability, the fact that it provides choice in competition,
19 pricing is referenced there, dissatisfaction with current
20 provider and transparency.

21 Now, Fair Isaac would have the Court draw an
22 inference that the discussion here of the key messages for a
23 public presentation was this nefarious price floor
24 conspiracy. That is not a reasonable inference to be drawn
25 from this document, and again, they have to exclude the

1 possibility of independent explanations, have to exclude the
2 possibility, for example, that that reference to pricing was
3 not a reference to the fact that the bureaus were going to
4 price independently or was a reference to the fact that
5 VantageScore provides lenders with a more refined ability to
6 price loan products.

7 And actually, one of the attendees at that meeting,
8 Mr. Oliai, can't recall specifically what that reference was,
9 but in his declaration indicated that's what he believes it
10 is. Again, the evidence that Fair Isaac has to submit here
11 must tend to exclude the possibility of independent conduct.
12 This evidence does not do that, your Honor.

13 And I just also want to make a brief note -- it's
14 covered in more detail in the briefs -- on the alleged
15 unilateral acts. They allege the conspiracies which we
16 detail in the briefs, but then they allege certain unilateral
17 acts that they say are anticompetitive, alleged price hikes
18 on FICO after VantageScore was launched -- how that coincides
19 with the conspiracy to price VantageScore no lower than FICO
20 I don't exactly know -- and the curtailing of access to data.

21 These claims, first of all, have no factual support
22 on the access to data. As we said, the access continues.
23 There's a preferred partnership, the other bureaus continue
24 to work with Fair Isaac. And again, since they are not
25 claiming conspiracy here with respect to data and no bureau

1 is a monopolist over its own data, as the Supreme Court
2 clearly held in the linkLine case that came down just a few
3 weeks ago, a monopolist has no duty to deal with anyone, let
4 alone on terms that are congenial to a plaintiff. And so
5 there's -- you know, there's no basis for antitrust liability
6 based on unilateral conduct like that.

7 I know I'm running up against my 20 minutes here.
8 Just briefly to the last theme, which is sort of the evidence
9 that contradicts the claimed wrongdoing. We have next to
10 nothing, really nothing with respect to the claims --
11 suggesting agreement, and as against that you have
12 affirmative evidence to the contrary, whereas Fair Isaac
13 claims a conspiracy to price VantageScore high in comparison
14 to FICO. Their own expert, their own expert found that there
15 was wide low pricing on VantageScore offered by the bureaus.
16 Whereas Fair Isaac claims a conspiracy among the bureaus to
17 offer preliminary discounts to only 12 large financial
18 institutions, their own expert found over 300 financial
19 institutions that were the beneficiaries of low price --
20 low-price VantageScore from the credit bureaus.

21 Quickly with respect to the documents. They claim
22 that there is a conspiracy among the credit bureaus to
23 abandon the in-house bureau scores. Again, that hasn't
24 happened in three years, but there's no communication among
25 the bureaus on that subject, no evidence of that. The only

1 evidence that we were able to find in the record to reflect a
2 discussion among the bureaus about what to do with their
3 internal scores reflects the opposite, and that's this
4 document that we attached as Exhibit 30-F to the Gant
5 declaration, and this is notes from the bureau, a joint
6 venture meeting, and it says the intent is to add to, not
7 replace, what's available at the individual credit bureaus.
8 That's what the truth is here.

9 And then finally what you have here is the sworn
10 statements of the credit bureau executives that were
11 submitted in connection with this motion. They have come
12 before this Court and under oath said: We didn't do these
13 things. And given the absence of evidence here that any
14 wrongdoing occurred, those declarations are entitled to great
15 weight here. Now, Fair Isaac just wants to brush those under
16 oath statements aside and say, well, they must -- of course
17 they're lying, of course they're committing perjury, but they
18 can't do that on summary judgment.

19 So, your Honor, whichever way you cut this, whether
20 it's a lack of standing, which itself is sufficient to grant
21 summary judgment, failure of proof, the existence of contrary
22 evidence, their claims fail here and summary judgment is
23 appropriate across all of the counts.

24 The last slide here is just kind of a bird's-eye
25 view of the specific counts and the various ways in which

1 summary judgment is appropriate as to each.

2 Thank you.

3 THE COURT: All right. Thank you.

4 MR. RULE: Your Honor, I guess -- let me just give
5 a couple of hard copies of my presentation to Mr. Milne. My
6 only objection was giving it to him before I started and I
7 have no problem giving it to him and to you, obviously, now.

8 Your Honor, good morning. It's an honor to be
9 here. Let me start -- and I'm just only going to touch very
10 briefly on the motion to strike and I hear your Honor very
11 loudly and clearly.

12 As we indicated, I think that the gist of what one
13 should take from what they have filed is that in fact there
14 are disputed issues of material fact and that that's
15 something appropriate for the jury to resolve as Judge Kyle
16 stated in the opinion that we gave you. I will say, however,
17 on behalf of myself and my colleagues, if your Honor would
18 like, we would love the opportunity to respond to their
19 Exhibits 49 and 50 --

20 THE COURT: No, I've got plenty of material to
21 decide this case. These declarations that go on and make
22 charts and graphs of it, to me, it is just a back-door way of
23 extending the word "limit" and getting more briefing in and
24 I'm going to do my best to ignore them and that's kind of
25 where we stand.

1 MR. RULE: Okay. Well, your Honor, there are a
2 few things there I probably am going to call your attention
3 to, because they actually, I think, are relevant and help us.

4 But at the outset, your Honor, I'm going to speak
5 to the antitrust claims and I want to just say at the outset
6 that a great deal of what the defendants did in their opening
7 brief and what Mr. Milne did here this morning is focus on
8 Fair Isaac and its position in the marketplace, and I just
9 want to start off by saying that, and frankly, the bulk of
10 what they put in the record is really irrelevant as we
11 pointed out in the **Kiefer-Stewart** case and everything else.
12 Regardless of what our position is, that does not excuse an
13 antitrust violation or conduct that amounts to a boycott on
14 steroids against us.

15 It's interesting that Mr. Milne would mention
16 another of my clients, Microsoft, which I am acutely aware of
17 what happened with them. But if you go back and look at the
18 case that was against Microsoft, it was basically Microsoft
19 going in and engaging in what the court found to be illegal
20 behavior to displace Netscape, which at the time of its
21 conduct had like a 90 percent market share in the browser
22 market. So the fact that somehow the law lets the defendants
23 do whatever they want just because we're big is entirely
24 wrong. However, I think it gives you a little bit of a
25 window into their soul, your Honor.

1 I think that they really did believe -- they were
2 certainly frustrated that Fair Isaac was in the marketplace
3 and earning the profits it had and I think there was a sense
4 of entitlement and right to basically do whatever it took to
5 displace Fair Isaac, and I think that's important to keep in
6 mind.

7 THE COURT: But at some point I do have to look to
8 the dangerous probability of success and I think that's where
9 market share all comes into play.

10 MR. RULE: Well, I think, your Honor, one thing
11 that I would say on that is I would invite your Honor to look
12 at **General Dynamics**, the **U.S. v. General Dynamics** case, the
13 **U.S. vs. Continental Can** case -- and we can discuss this
14 more -- essentially where the court warns -- this is the
15 Supreme Court -- warns that evidence during the pendency of
16 litigation is often misleading, because parties often
17 withhold their most egregious acts until after the litigation
18 is over.

19 I think it's kind of astounding -- we certainly
20 have not abandoned our claim about their control over data,
21 their control over pricing, and I think the fact that their
22 frustration has bubbled up an Experian decision to stop
23 selling FICO scores hung on Experian data to consumers. I
24 think that's pretty clearly a shot across the bow, an
25 indication of what they can do when this Court is not

1 watching.

2 But let me start, your Honor, with the fact that
3 when we began --

4 THE COURT: I'm not sure I understood that. Would
5 you say that again? You lost me someplace.

6 MR. RULE: What I said was that if you -- they
7 basically in the last year cancelled the right to sell
8 Experian FICO scores to consumers that is hung on their data.
9 They point out that they did extend the agreement with
10 business lenders, but they prevented consumers from basically
11 getting FICO scores with Experian data.

12 Now, the fact that they could do that I think is an
13 indication of the power that they have over the control of
14 the data that's absolutely essential to get a score to the
15 marketplace and the fact that they have control over the
16 distribution channel. While they may have refrained from
17 doing anything particularly egregious during the course of
18 this litigation, I think that's, as I say, a warning shot
19 across our bow that once this is over, they're going to be in
20 a position to essentially use that power to displace us from
21 the marketplace. But if I can go through, I'll show you some
22 of the evidence, your Honor.

23 When we started off we were focused on a
24 rule-of-reason case. We did that because we felt that when
25 you get three -- the only three bureaus together that have a

1 hundred percent market share in a concentrated industry and
2 an oligopoly, that it threatened us, threatened to exclude us
3 and threatened to harm consumers in data markets. That was
4 the case. That was what your Honor looked at in the first
5 hearing here.

6 THE COURT: But that's changed as the case has
7 gone on.

8 MR. RULE: Absolutely. And the reason is, your
9 Honor, at the time, as it's now become clear -- it hasn't
10 been easy to do this and I'll show you -- there was a smoke
11 screen of disclaimers, basically destruction of documents and
12 even frankly outright dissembling, to basically hide the true
13 nature of this. And what we found as a result of looking at
14 this is that there was a conspiracy very -- in a very
15 targeted way to go after Fair Isaac, to displace Fair Isaac,
16 and to do it in a way that they could take intact the profits
17 that Fair Isaac was earning and appropriate them to
18 themselves, much more invidious, much more pernicious, and
19 they could do that because their power over data and
20 distribution allowed them to do that.

21 But basically what they've agreed to do is not to
22 compete amongst themselves and they basically sat around and
23 targeted the most important customers for Fair Isaac and
24 basically said we'll go after them with temporary discounts,
25 if necessary, and there are certainly some of those.

1 Second, they got together at the same time and
2 said: Look, you know, we're like the three musketeers, one
3 for all, all for one, so let's make sure we're not selling
4 our own tri-bureau scores that they were developing.

5 THE COURT: One of the musketeers has defected,
6 apparently.

7 MR. RULE: Well, your Honor, normally you would
8 think when a musketeer defects that's pretty much an
9 admission that they are a musketeer, and frankly, I find it
10 somewhat interesting that a settlement is being used as
11 evidence that there wasn't an agreement. Moreover, I find it
12 interesting that they're particularly up in arms about a
13 settlement that essentially guarantees Fair Isaac fair
14 treatment. That's what -- when you get right down to what
15 the agreement says, it allows us to have a relationship with
16 them and -- so again, fair treatment in a settlement doesn't
17 seem to me to disprove the existence of a conspiracy, and at
18 any rate, the conspiracy existed before whatever settlement
19 there was. But at any rate -- so the second thing was to get
20 rid of their tri-bureau scores.

21 And the third -- and this is the real key, your
22 Honor -- was essentially to agree not to compete among
23 themselves. They understood -- and I'll explain why this is
24 clearly rational. If left to their own devices, each of them
25 would engage in loss leading with this product, the

1 VantageScore. They had it at a zero marginal cost, there are
2 absolutely no capacity constraints, and it's the identical
3 product. Remember, they've gone out to the market and
4 they've said VantageScore is the same whether you buy it from
5 Experian, TU, or Equifax. So common sense tells you that in
6 that kind of situation, competitors left to their own devices
7 will compete against each other, loss lead to try to get more
8 market share in their underlying data products. They
9 understood that that was a problem and so what they agreed to
10 was this notion of value proposition pricing, so they agreed
11 to valued proposition pricing.

12 And the interesting thing is, your Honor, whereas
13 they told you before that what this was all about were low
14 prices, in fact now -- and again, this is something I would
15 call your attention to -- in their declarations, they've
16 submitted two declarations that essentially admit that three
17 years after they are engaged in value proposition pricing.

18 First, Mr. Callaci from TU, basically in
19 responding to his statement on deposition record that: "'We
20 don't compete on price' with Fair Isaac," explains that what
21 he meant was: "[B]ecause we (TransUnion) have attempted to
22 price VantageScore as a premium score rather than discounting
23 the score relative to the Fair Isaac scores we sell."

24 And then they submitted a declaration from
25 Experian, Mr. Reeves. Mr. Reeves tells you that he too --

1 that is, Experian -- "[W]e believe that VantageScore brings
2 more value to customers than the market-leading FICO score
3 based on its greater predictive power and other benefits and
4 that therefore a fair pricing approach for VantageScore would
5 be to price it around the price of FICO scores."

6 So they've admitted that they're engaged even today
7 in this value proposition pricing.

8 THE COURT: But there's no loss leading that
9 actually happens, though, because the floor is set, correct?

10 MR. RULE: Correct. And let me just show you one
11 thing. This is a pretty astounding document from Mr. Oliai.
12 He basically says -- this is, you know, several months after
13 the score had been launched in response to a question about
14 giving a price break in response to a request from a large
15 lender. He says: "I advise you against discounting
16 VantageScore relative to FICO. We should promote the value,"
17 your Honor. He says: "We should promote the value of the
18 new score and help them build" -- them. Who knows? I assume
19 the bureaus -- "a business case in which cost savings to the
20 bureaus is not a factor."

21 Now, that's very interesting. He's saying we've
22 got to sell on value. We can't sell on cost. Well, I'll
23 tell you what, your Honor. There's a very important case
24 that I think you -- I'm sure you've read but you ought to
25 focus on, and that's Judge Posner's decision in the **High**

1 **Fructose Corn Syrup** case. What he says there is: "In a
2 competitive market, price is based on cost rather than on
3 value." He was confronted with the similar kinds of
4 arguments that these folks are saying, that, well, gee,
5 pricing on value is really independent behavior, and he
6 rejected that because he noted that in a competitive market,
7 price is based on cost. We have both of our experts agreeing
8 with that concept, both Murphy and Noll, and I would say that
9 given what the defendants had said prior to these
10 declarations, they also at least had to recognize the logic
11 of that position.

12 But just to give your Honor a sense that this
13 strategy was accepted, here's another statement from Randy
14 Baker, the manager of strategic pricing at Experian: "I
15 appreciate your pricing strategy" he tells one of his
16 lower-level people, "However, it is a business decision to
17 price FICO Classic and VantageScore at the same price point."

18 So then just to show how irrational this is if
19 everybody's acting unilaterally, the lower-level person says:
20 "So we'd rather pay FICO royalties than get a hundred percent
21 of the revenue that we could get from VantageScore?" That
22 doesn't make sense to me." What doesn't make sense to me
23 doesn't make sense to economists, because that's not what you
24 would see if people were truly acting independently.

25 And then we go, your Honor, to a truly amazing

1 document that Equifax produced at about the time of the
2 launch, and this is an internal sales document. This is what
3 they're telling their internal salespeople, your Honor:
4 "Target and execute on sales cycles with these customers with
5 a 'swap out' objective, not using VantageScore to take core
6 market share away from" the other two musketeers, "Experian
7 or TU."

8 Then we go on to another document, another Equifax
9 document. This is right before launch where they're talking
10 about potential market scenarios, and you'll notice that
11 Smooth Sailing involves no loss-leading pricing, but
12 apparently loss-leading pricing in this document is
13 irrational behavior. Again, it's only irrational if there's
14 an agreement.

15 You'll also note that Armageddon, the worst case
16 scenario, would be that the CRAs would basically get confused
17 on the strategy. Well, why is one CRA basically saying we
18 should have, you know, solidarity and there shouldn't be
19 confusion on strategy just because there's an agreement?

20 Now we flip ahead to September and we see the same
21 sort of analysis from Equifax saying that it's Smooth
22 Sailing, that the best case scenario is playing out. That
23 means no loss leading. Clearly they're looking at the
24 marketplace. This is an internal document, your Honor, but
25 this is an internal document that's very probative, because

1 it's an observer in the market looking at what his
2 competitors are doing.

3 Your Honor, I want to take you through the events
4 here. You see the yellow line is sort of a discussion, a
5 lead-up. I'm not going to really take you through much of
6 the evidence there, but it's very clear that throughout that
7 period there was a sense of, again, frustration that Fair
8 Isaac was doing so well, very little in terms of, gee, we
9 need a new score for the market, a lot about our profits.

10 You'll also see at the --

11 THE COURT: Remind me when the complaint was filed
12 here, early '06?

13 MR. RULE: No, no, your Honor. It was filed in
14 October of '06.

15 But if you begin, you see that there were some --
16 what we have listed at the top here are the scheduled
17 meetings and scheduled conference calls. There were
18 relatively few scheduled ones. There was a meeting in early
19 2004 where the idea of a tri-bureau score jointly created was
20 discussed, but it finally sort of reached a climax towards
21 the end of 2004, beginning of 2005, where the bureaus got
22 together and decided, yes, we're going to get into a venture,
23 and, yes, we're going to figure out a way to get these
24 profits from Fair Isaac.

25 And what did they do? One of the first things they

1 did was go out and hire this independent consultant, Mercer
2 Oliver Wyman. They basically told them what they wanted to
3 do and Mercer Oliver Wyman's individual, Peter Carroll, put
4 together this memo. It's called the Operation Triad, your
5 Honor, and this basically is the blueprint. This is what he
6 was told they wanted to achieve. This is what he was
7 suggesting be done.

8 So first he says: "The bureaus wish to reduce the
9 rent derived from this business relationship by Fair Isaac,
10 believing that the current arrangement over-rewards
11 Fair Isaac for what they bring to the table."

12 Next he says: "Opportunity. We are told that
13 Fair Isaac has a \$160 million business related to these
14 scores. In principle, the bureaus could build their own
15 scorecard(s) and transfer this revenue entirely to
16 themselves -- and do so at relatively low incremental
17 expense."

18 Well, they continued to cite that \$160 million --
19 basically 167, which was Fair Isaac's profits -- even at the
20 time of launch.

21 Then he goes on to say: "Risks to the bureaus."
22 If one bureau tries to do this, it won't work because
23 basically the lenders will switch to the other bureaus.

24 And then he says: "The banks are likely to want a
25 period of dual-score availability, if not indeed a permanent

1 choice" of Fair Isaac. "If the three bureaus act in concert,
2 as 'Triad,'" he calls them -- it subsequently became
3 Trident -- "this particular risk is minimized."

4 And then he goes on to say: "If customers believe
5 the FICO scores to be superior" -- and of course, again, we
6 think the evidence shows that the VantageScore is not
7 superior, even though they presented it that way. But even
8 if customers believe that our score is superior, "they would
9 be very upset with the bureaus but [they'd] have little power
10 to force the bureaus to deal [fairly] with Fair Isaac."

11 And then finally, your Honor, he notes, undoubtedly
12 based on his conversations: "Fair Isaac could be expected to
13 explore legal avenues to defend their rents, perhaps
14 including claims of monopoly power on the part of the Triad."

15 So even in early March, your Honor, they understood
16 that they were playing with fire and that they were running
17 the risk of antitrust litigation. And what did they do?
18 They basically gave directions to Mercer Oliver Wyman and
19 everybody else to shred all documents. And while there's
20 some dispute about what was shredded -- and fortunately I
21 think for this Court and us a lot did survive and we can
22 prove our case, but the fact is that a lot of documents were
23 destroyed, a lot of things you would normally expect to see
24 are not there. Basically for the most part what has survived
25 are pristine, sort of cleaned up documents, but the raw

1 material, the raw notes, there are some exceptions, but
2 they're largely missing.

3 THE COURT: Are there any raw notes of meetings
4 that are missing, of meetings that occurred subsequent to the
5 filing of the lawsuit? It's my understanding what you're
6 claiming is missing is all from the early stages, is that
7 right?

8 MR. RULE: It's missing from the early stages, but
9 quite frankly, we don't have -- the meetings still go on and
10 they continue to this day as we showed on the timeline, so
11 they had plenty of opportunity for monitoring. We don't have
12 those because of the discovery cutoff, but at any rate, very
13 few of those documents survive.

14 Very early on after that Triad memo they're already
15 talking about price. Piyush Tantia, who was the person in
16 charge day to day for Mercer Oliver Wyman, in writing to
17 Peter Carroll says this should be the same price for this
18 tri-bureau score as a single-bureau FICO score.

19 Now, I want to say, your Honor, Mr. Milne got up
20 here and said there's no evidence of pricing and he pointed
21 to the document from TU from February of 2005. And what he
22 didn't tell you and what they don't tell you and what you're
23 going to have a hard time seeing in their call-out is the
24 block that they quoted. It says: "Retail pricing will be
25 established by the individual CRAs." But then the next

1 sentence is very interesting: "Wholesale pricing will be
2 agreed upon by the board of NewCo and will take the form of a
3 royalty on each score delivered to customers."

4 What that reflects, your Honor, and what they've
5 actually admitted if you go to Exhibit 50 and the bottom of
6 page 4 is that, yes, there were discussions on pricing. They
7 have to admit that because there are some notes from
8 Mr. Tantia, handwritten notes, some that survived, which are
9 at Exhibit 217 -- it's MOW-FICO 00069102 -- where basically
10 Equifax's lawyer, antitrust lawyer, says, you know, if you're
11 going to have a wholesale price or royalty, it's got to be
12 very low. They were continuing to discuss this sort of
13 wholesale price arrangement all the way through, and if you
14 look at the bottom of that exhibit, they admit that they did
15 talk about that price. I mean, there's no question, your
16 Honor, that they talked about price, it may have been a
17 wholesale price, and ultimately we believe they abandoned
18 that because the lawyers told them it was too easy a target
19 and they ultimately settled on value proposition pricing, but
20 no question they talked about price. But this concept of
21 having sort of agreed to price floor value proposition began
22 as early as Piyush Tantia's mail here.

23 Now, this is a very interesting document,
24 interesting because MOW basically put together a sort of
25 plan. Part of it was how to develop the score, but they also

1 went further and put in a business plan, and part of that
2 business plan says that it would focus on pricing of the
3 tri-bureau score, including introductory demonstration prices
4 to encourage adoption, essentially what has ultimately been
5 done here.

6 Now interestingly, Experian says: No, let's delete
7 that right now. Right now is not the time to talk about that
8 marketing plan, that business plan, but it may be appropriate
9 for the next step to include value proposition. So keep that
10 in mind, your Honor. As early as March they're talking about
11 value proposition and as a concept, as an alternative, as a
12 buzz word, if you will, for pricing.

13 Then we go forward, your Honor -- meetings all
14 along here -- to June, and right about -- one of the days of
15 the meetings we have this document that Equifax produced.
16 And again, you'll notice in this document that there's this
17 wholesale price on the left, on the right there's a concept
18 of a retail price, and you'll notice that the price for all
19 the bureaus is the same. And then under that they call out,
20 they say: "Retail pricing 'floor' will be explored. LLC
21 governance over testing, trial uses and loss leader pricing."
22 Now, it's true it's an internal document, your Honor, but
23 it's inconceivable that Equifax was not putting this together
24 to basically reflect what they thought was going to be
25 discussed at these meetings.

1 Then you go to August and this is a very important
2 document. Their basic response to this document -- it's an
3 internal document by a low-level official. Well, let's look
4 who did it.

5 It's Dana Wiklund, basically the number two guy,
6 senior vice president for analytics, writing to his boss, the
7 chief marketing officer at Equifax, and this is the day
8 before the following day on 8-23 when there's going to be a
9 meeting, and he's basically showing him what the state of
10 play is, what the risks are that are confronting these folks
11 and how they're going to deal with it.

12 And first -- and I'll come back to this -- he talks
13 about the need to obsolete existing tri-bureau scores and
14 focuses specifically on the tri-bureau score of Experian.

15 Next he says: "A CRA" -- this is the risk -- "a
16 CRA undercuts pricing on the final model and loss leads with
17 it," points out that that's damage to future valuation for
18 all three companies working on the project. How are you
19 going to deal with that? "Gain agreement that price loss
20 leading will not happen with this project deliverable."

21 And then we see down here a recognition of a risk
22 that FICO files a lawsuit, "could be a legal issue that could
23 stop the thing in its tracks." How are we going to deal with
24 that? Are we going to go to the lawyers and ask them: "Gee,
25 can we do all these things I just mentioned?" No, we're

1 going to go to the lawyers and "work with legal [] to make
2 sure that we have covered the bases from an antitrust
3 perspective." That sounds a little cynical to me, your
4 Honor.

5 Then we go to October 7th. This is important, your
6 Honor, because on October 18th there's a go/no-go meeting.
7 So they're putting together the agenda for this meeting and
8 the first agenda comes out. Kerry Williams, high-level
9 individual at Experian, basically says: "[J]ust so we are
10 clear ... this [agenda] does not cover the market strategy []
11 we will be presenting." Experian was going to present market
12 strategy work -- and we'll talk about that in a minute -- and
13 he gets an answer back: "That is correct. I have advised
14 Mercer Oliver Wyman to put that agenda together as well" and
15 it's going to deal with this marketing. And look what's
16 there on number 4, your Honor: "Communications Plan -
17 Initial and ongoing messaging to the market (value
18 proposition)." So, remember they said in March: Let's take
19 it off for now, but we'll come back to it in value
20 proposition. Here it is. It shows up on the agenda for this
21 meeting.

22 Then on October 14th we have -- there are two
23 documents that -- I'm only going to show you the external
24 documents. There are two versions of this document that look
25 like what's going to be presented at the meeting on

1 October 18th. There's an internal version. Here's the
2 external version, your Honor, and let's just see what they
3 say. "Expected Competition Reaction." Do they have the
4 CRAs? Do they have other people on there? No, it's FICO.
5 FICO is the competition. And then what do they say? Matt's
6 going to talk about pricing, okay?

7 Then we go to October 18th, the go/no-go meeting,
8 and the sanitized, officially blessed deck has in the
9 communications consideration: "To the market. Establish a
10 clear and consistent value proposition." That's there. Now,
11 we don't know what was discussed. That was what was on the
12 deck. We don't know what was discussed. There are minutes
13 of this meeting, very short, typically, of these folks, but
14 the place where this would have been discussed? Guess what?
15 It's redacted, your Honor. So we don't know what they
16 actually discussed because they've chosen to redact that
17 portion of the minutes.

18 Now, your Honor, we go to the Piyush Tantia notes
19 that Mr. Milne referred to. If you go to the bottom, here's
20 what it says. Now, I will tell you that their *post hoc*
21 explanation of this is just completely faulty. I'm going to
22 let you look at the two documents that are relevant here, but
23 it's clear that the materials they were putting together for
24 the Government were clearly different from this. But here's
25 what he writes:

1 "Key messages. Each CRA has a good feel for the
2 messages." "Pricing" is there. And I also call your
3 attention to "Dissatisfaction with current provider." No "s"
4 on that.

5 Then it gets written up subsequently, again as a
6 separate bullet, separate from the discussion of putting
7 together the materials for the regulators, and now "Each CRA
8 has a good feel for the messages" is gone, and "ultimately"
9 -- now it says: "ultimately to be decided by each CRA."
10 Those are completely opposite concepts. "Pricing" is missing
11 and "providers" now has an "s." So I think that that shows
12 that pricing probably -- almost certainly was discussed, that
13 Fair Isaac was discussed, but then afterwards in the official
14 documents that were to survive the shredding, basically it
15 was sanitized.

16 THE COURT: Okay. You only have a couple minutes
17 left --

18 MR. RULE: Okay.

19 THE COURT: -- and I want to make sure that I get
20 a chance to have you explain to me your damages.

21 MR. RULE: Okay. Well, let me just -- here's
22 another internal document referring to value proposition with
23 overall value.

24 I'm also going to show you -- there are three
25 documents in the deck that show the sort of commitment to

1 value proposition pricing as late as 2007 around the time of
2 one of these meetings. Here's one on the 17th, here's one on
3 the 19th, and then here's one on February 1st, all of them
4 from each of the different bureaus.

5 Then I want to also show you, your Honor, there's a
6 statement here about discounts and basically we've heard a
7 lot about discounts, but all it says is put in place
8 discounts that sort of match FICO and Experian.

9 So -- and in fact there is some evidence -- now,
10 frankly, Meyer did not look at those 300 entries. he
11 excluded them. There's a lot of problems with the data.

12 But the fact of discounting, if you look at Judge
13 Posner's decision, is, frankly, he takes it as evidence of a
14 conspiracy because you don't see that kind of price
15 discrimination in a competitive market. Moreover, all it
16 really shows is that there was a differential between the
17 Fair Isaac price and the price charged for VantageScore and
18 in some cases in some of the things that they've submitted
19 suggest that maybe the Fair Isaac price was increased.

20 Your Honor, I'm going to try to go through this
21 pretty quickly. This is also the deck where --

22 THE COURT: Is this your damage theory? You're
23 really about at the end of your time, so I want a few minutes
24 of your damage theory.

25 MR. RULE: Okay.

1 THE COURT: You're going to have to rely upon
2 what's in here --

3 MR. RULE: And you can look at that and you will
4 see the evidence of talking about marketing and talking about
5 obsolescence of scores. The one thing, your Honor -- let me
6 just say this:

7 In terms of the damages theory, the fact is that to
8 the extent that they have engaged in illegal activity to
9 essentially put us out of the market and that has adversely
10 affected -- we basically lost profits. The normal measure of
11 damages in a boycott case or a monopolization case are lost
12 profits. I mean, that's just the way -- that's what usually
13 it is, and what this case is really about is a boycott case
14 and we point out some of those cases.

15 And I should also say we're not asking to dissolve
16 VantageScore. Perhaps that would be an appropriate remedy,
17 but what we've said is, look, just divest it. Send it off on
18 its own. Have it owned by a third party. The harm here is
19 the fact that they own it and so that's the problem.

20 Your Honor, I want to show you one other slide. I
21 just can't -- I have to show you this because I think it
22 really proves one of the issues here that's very
23 disconcerting, and that is this slide show that they
24 presented to DOJ. And they basically touted Mercer Oliver
25 Wyman as managing the process, and again, the evidence shows

1 that they in fact didn't. They were kept in the dark much of
2 the time. It also said no, it will not lead to price
3 coordination. We've shown that it has. CRAs retain the
4 right to market their own scores. Again, they had an
5 agreement on obsolescence.

6 But then -- this is particularly interesting. They
7 point out their guidelines and again use that as a screen,
8 but the fact is they violated each one of them.

9 "Communications regarding marketing, pricing."
10 We've shown that.

11 "Communications regarding current or future
12 development." They basically had this agreement and
13 discussed Scorex PLUS and other tri-bureau scores.

14 "Communications regarding dealings with third-party
15 providers of scoring algorithms, including Fair Isaac."
16 Well, this was all about going after Fair Isaac and it's in
17 document after document.

18 "Communications regarding members' or other []
19 products." They basically used each other's products in
20 creating the score.

21 And then communications to deal or not to deal with
22 a particular category of customers. We've shown that.

23 Here's the conspiracy evidence, your Honor. We
24 think that this is -- I basically argued **Matsushita** for the
25 Government in support of the position that the Government

1 accepted and I can tell you this is no **Matsushita** case. This
2 is an entirely plausible conspiracy with evidence.

3 With respect to the injury to us, your Honor, these
4 are three documents starting from the bottom with a Mercer
5 Oliver Wyman, basically: "Only trying to replace the
6 traditional FICO score"; TU: "Replace FICO anywhere [it
7 appears]"; Experian: "Wanted to make sure that we
8 aggressively pursue opportunities to displace FICO"; and then
9 Equifax: "Do we shoot or milk the cash cow ...?" Well,
10 replace, displace or shoot, your Honor, they're all the same.
11 It indicates that the conspiracy was focused against us and
12 that we have standing to challenge it.

13 And, your Honor, I just would leave you with these
14 cases and particularly the **ES Development** case from the
15 Eighth Circuit. Very much on point. It involved a bunch of
16 competitors getting together to exclude somebody from the
17 marketplace, hired a lawyer, tried to engage in things that
18 they could on their own, but the court said that that was an
19 illegal conspiracy and found accordingly.

20 This is some evidence of the adverse effect on
21 competition, the importance of data competition, an
22 indication of the importance of scores generating data
23 competition, and finally the notion -- and this is in the
24 Robida deposition -- that the parties went through and
25 discussed their black box, their deepest, darkest secrets.

1 And I'd also ask your Honor to look at their IP
2 agreement, where they basically -- even those are the
3 deepest, darkest secrets, justified unusual security
4 precautions, basically they expressly reserve the right for
5 each of them after looking at the deepest, darkest data
6 secrets to take it back to their own shop and use it. It
7 expressly says you can take that data -- you can't give it to
8 a third party, but you can take it back to your own operation
9 and use it. So it's like Coke and Pepsi getting together,
10 sharing their formulas with the cooks, the head chefs, soda
11 chefs, and then basically allowing them to go back to their
12 respective venues and use that information. It's clearly
13 anticompetitive.

14 We've got some of the statements about what they
15 shared and about the fact that any changes in the score
16 basically requires unanimity, which means that if I come up
17 with a new data element that I want to include in the
18 VantageScore, my other two competitors can prevent me from
19 using it.

20 Finally, this NAMB letter, your Honor, I just would
21 call your attention to it, because it talks about some of the
22 concerns that National Association of Mortgage Brokers, one
23 of the principal consumers or trade groups, had with this
24 arrangement, basically indicating that: "whether the change
25 is designed to eliminate or replace the current use of

1 Classic FICO scores or whether it represents a better" score.
2 That was unclear to them.

3 But what's most important, your Honor, is this
4 statement: "Most significantly, it is unclear what benefit
5 is gained by consumers in having this new System, which is
6 perceived to simply repackage an existing product and injects
7 uncertainty and confusion into the market."

8 THE COURT: Okay. I think you're beyond your
9 time.

10 MR. RULE: Okay. Thank you, your Honor.

11 THE COURT: I'll hear from Mr. Milne ten minutes
12 with regard to his reserve time.

13 MR. MILNE: Yes. Thank you, your Honor.

14 Boy, Mr. Rule talks fast and I think there's a lot
15 of double talk in there, but let me just -- let me just start
16 with -- he said a lot of things.

17 I didn't hear him answer your question about
18 damages because I don't think there is an answer.

19 I don't think I heard him answer the question of
20 how there is any kind of real or immediate threat to
21 Fair Isaac's continued corporate existence. No answer to
22 that because there isn't one. We're not using the Equifax
23 preferred partnership as proof of the lack of conspiracy.
24 There's no evidence of conspiracy.

25 The significance of that agreement is the fact that

1 it preserves Fair Isaac's future. The very things they say
2 they're threatened by as a result of this collaboration,
3 things like not having access to data and the like, those
4 things are -- first of all, it's preserved by the Equifax
5 agreement and he didn't come up here and say that there was
6 any real threat to them going forward except to say, oh,
7 well, maybe, just maybe in the future once the lawsuit is
8 over they may change their conduct. But it's very clear in
9 the cases that we cite in our brief, Judge, that speculation
10 about the future is not enough to grant summary judgment, or
11 to defeat summary judgment.

12 And, you know, he talked about the Experian
13 cancellation of a consumer agreement. Well, yes, they did
14 that. That was a small business dealing in terms of the
15 overall relationship between those companies and Experian
16 renewed the major distribution agreement between the two
17 companies despite the lawsuit and TransUnion has continued on
18 throughout this process with a very cooperative relationship
19 with Fair Isaac. And so there's just no basis to believe --
20 first of all, the bureaus are acting in very different ways,
21 so the suggestion that their activities with respect to data
22 or distribution are somehow evidence of some kind of
23 coordinated conduct or, as Mr. Rule just said at the end,
24 some kind of coordinated conspiracy to kill Fair Isaac, it
25 just doesn't make sense. They're all over the place in terms

1 of their individual activities, which you would expect in a
2 competitive environment.

3 Now, one thing that's also worth observing here
4 about what Mr. Rule said is, the basic thesis here is that
5 the bureaus somehow have it out for Fair Isaac and they're
6 going to drive it out of business in some way, shape or form.
7 How is that likely to be achieved where there's no allegation
8 of conspiracy with respect to denial of data, where the data
9 dealings continue, and where the basic thesis of the
10 conspiracy is we're going to price VantageScore high in
11 relation to the FICO score? I mean, it's undisputed in this
12 record that lenders do not switch and it's lenders that drive
13 this marketplace. The consumer business is really a
14 follower. It's where -- the money is where the lenders are
15 and that's what drives the business.

16 How is it -- and it's undisputed that lenders will
17 not make a switch without extensive testing. They're not
18 going to switch to a new scoring system without doing these
19 extensive statistical tests. Everybody recognizes that. So
20 if VantageScore isn't as good as Fair Isaac, it's not going
21 to get accepted, and if it's priced too high, it's much, much
22 less likely to be accepted by lenders. So what kind of
23 conspiracy to kill Fair Isaac is this, a conspiracy to price
24 VantageScore high? It just doesn't make sense.

25 And the idea that -- you know, Mr. Rule got up here

1 and said it was completely irrational that the bureaus would
2 not have in effect given away -- because the marginal cost of
3 this scoring product is basically zero once you develop the
4 algorithm. You know, it doesn't cost much to generate each
5 incremental score. So his basic position is that absent
6 conspiracy you would see the bureaus giving it away. He
7 says, he concedes that what we're talking about here -- first
8 of all, that just doesn't make sense from a business
9 perspective and you can't rule out the possibility of
10 independent conduct, that an individual bureau looking at
11 this would say: Hmm, you know, we have what we think is a
12 good score here. We think it outperforms the FICO score and
13 the FICO score is the benchmark out there in the marketplace.
14 Well, let's see if we can price it at around that level and
15 then we'll tell customers: Look, you're getting more for it.
16 It's more predictive. It's a good deal for you. Is that
17 irrational? That's commonsense business conduct. It's
18 hardly irrational. And because we're talking about a
19 relatively concentrated market with only three sellers, the
20 cases -- and we cited them, including the **Blomkest** case --
21 talk about how it is expected in a concentrated market that
22 pricing will not mirror a marginal cost, that it will be
23 higher than marginal cost, without conspiracy, without any
24 illegality.

25 He talked a lot about value proposition.

1 Basically, in the absence of evidence of actual agreement,
2 what they're stretching for is to find some link -- and
3 before I even get into that, I just want to make clear: You
4 can and you should grant summary judgment on the failure with
5 respect to damages and injunctive relief. Customers --
6 customers aren't in here suing. They include some of the
7 most sophisticated financial institutions in the world. The
8 Government is not in here suing on behalf of some public
9 interest. The DOJ actually did look at this arrangement and
10 concluded its investigation with no action.

11 So what you have is a competitor here. They
12 haven't satisfied the requirements for antitrust injury, they
13 have no standing, and so you never even need to get to the
14 next level, but there is an absolute failure of proof on the
15 issue of agreement. Where is the evidence? Where is the
16 evidence that value became some kind of code not just for
17 price, but for a price floor on VantageScore? Not a
18 scintilla.

19 And when you look at the documents, when you look
20 at the documents -- they have two categories of, quote,
21 unquote, value documents that they include in their papers.
22 One is the category of documents that reflect the joint
23 venture discussions. And again, they're in a collaborative
24 venture to have a new product. You have a new product,
25 you're going to talk about -- you have to have a message for

1 what that product does. What is it? Is it a better product?
2 What does it do? What are its attributes? And when you look
3 at the documents that talk about value proposition, that's
4 what they're talking about. They are talking about the
5 attributes of the score. That's category one.

6 The other category is the internal bureau documents
7 and we just talked about that. The idea that a bureau
8 internally would say to itself: Hmm, I have a score, it's
9 got these attributes. How am I going to price it? And yes
10 indeed it's true. This isn't something that's problematic,
11 that some of the bureaus had independently reached a decision
12 that they at least aspired to have a price that would come
13 close to the FICO score and that would mirror the value --
14 it's common sense -- would mirror the value of the product.

15 But what's key here is, you know, if there really
16 was a price fixing conspiracy to set a floor for VantageScore
17 pricing, you would expect to see -- first of all, you'd
18 expect to see some indication that they were enforcing the
19 agreement and all these low prices. You didn't hear him
20 dispute the existence of all these low prices and how they
21 were extended to lots and lots of customers, somebody saying,
22 "Hey, what's happening here? The conspiracy, nobody's
23 following it. It's breaking down." Nothing like that. You
24 don't see that.

25 But the other thing you would not expect to see

would be -- it's an absolute floor, remember? You wouldn't expect to see policies that would allow for discounting, and we attached the documents to our papers.

In the case of Experian, they had a policy that gave even field sales level individuals the freedom to offer 30 percent discounts on VantageScore without getting anybody's approval. You could get a 40 percent discount just with a district manager's approval, and if you wanted to go to 50 percent, yes, at that point you had to go to a vice president.

11 THE COURT: Okay. I think that's going to be the
12 final word on the antitrust.

13 MR. MILNE: Okay. I would just add, your Honor,
14 we put the detail -- the whole issue of shredding, we address
15 it in the brief. They haven't even attempted to satisfy the
16 requirements for an adverse inference and it's not even close
17 on each level of the test for that.

18 THE COURT: All right. I think any remaining
19 questions I have will be answered by reference to the briefs,
20 so we'll take a ten-minute break and then move ahead to the
21 trademark claim.

22 | (Recess taken at 10:15 a.m.)

23 | * * * * *

24 (10:30 a.m.)

IN OPEN COURT

1 THE COURT: All right. Please be seated and we'll
2 proceed to talk about the trademark claims, which are Counts
3 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6 and 7.

4 And let's see. I guess --

5 MR. GLANCY: Good morning, your Honor.

6 THE COURT: And you're Mr. Glancy, is that --

7 MR. GLANCY: Glancy, yes. Christopher Glancy from
8 White & Case and I'm here to speak on behalf of all
9 defendants in support of Defendants' motion for summary
10 judgment on both the trademark infringement claims and the
11 false advertising claims. I'll address first the trademark
12 infringement claims.

13 There are two essential elements in every trademark
14 infringement case, and that is that the plaintiff must prove
15 ownership of a valid trademark and likelihood of confusion.

16 Now, with respect to the claims that are based on
17 the 300 to 850 score range, we have moved only with respect
18 to the first element, ownership of a valid trademark. We
19 contend that they do not own a valid trademark. I'll address
20 separately later on the keyword advertising claims.

21 Trademark protection is only afforded to
22 distinctive marks and there's a good reason for this. No
23 company should be allowed to monopolize common descriptive
24 terms and prevent competitors from using those same terms to
25 fairly describe their own products, or else otherwise

1 companies could lay claim to all the words in the dictionary
2 or, as here, to entire ranges of numbers and prevent
3 competitors from using those terms or those numbers to fairly
4 describe their own products.

5 Now, the determination of validity here is really a
6 two-step process. First is determining whether or not where
7 300 to 850 belongs on the so-called "spectrum of
8 distinctiveness." Your Honor may be familiar with it. The
9 low end is generic marks, which are not protectable, then
10 descriptive marks, which are not inherently distinctive, then
11 suggestive marks and arbitrary marks and fanciful marks.

12 Now, descriptive marks are -- the courts are very
13 clear about this -- a term that immediately describes the
14 ingredients, qualities, characteristics, effects or other
15 features of the goods or services at issue. A descriptive
16 term doesn't need to bring to mind the nature of the goods or
17 services. It just needs to describe a particular
18 characteristic or feature of that service.

19 So with those definitions in mind, let's take a
20 look at the facts in this case.

21 And Bryan, if you could show the first slide.

22 This is a screen shot of the Fair Isaac web site,
23 and if I may approach, I have hard copies for the Court.

24 THE COURT: Okay. Please.

25 MR. GLANCY: And one for opposing counsel.

1 This is a screen shot of the myFICO web site which
2 shows that -- exactly how Defendants use 300 to 850.

3 Toward the bottom in small type there, you can see
4 it says: "FICO scores are your credit rating. They range
5 from 300 to 850, higher is better." So the question before
6 the Court then is are Plaintiffs using 300 to 850 to describe
7 a feature of their services, and I submit to you that there's
8 only one possible answer: Of course they are. No reasonable
9 jury could conclude otherwise. It is a descriptive term.

10 Now, in response to this the plaintiffs have relied
11 on their trademark registration which they secured from the
12 Trademark Office, but does the fact of a registration defeat
13 summary judgment here? No. The cases that we've cited in
14 our brief clearly support that.

15 And indeed, it's important to see that the
16 trademark examiner initially rejected the 300 to 850
17 application on the ground that it was descriptive. That was
18 a proper objection. But what did Fair Isaac do in response?
19 They hoodwinked the trademark examiner basically in an
20 exercise of misdirection. Fair Isaac argued that this was
21 not descriptive, this was arbitrary, and why? Because the
22 mark was arbitrarily selected. But that's a specious
23 argument. It matters not to any consumer how the mark was
24 actually selected. The question is what is the relationship
25 of the mark to the goods or services at issue, and here it is

1 clearly being used in a descriptive fashion to describe a
2 feature of Plaintiffs' service.

3 Now, it should be noted as well that Plaintiffs
4 hardly chose this mark arbitrarily. It wasn't plucked out of
5 thin air. They had these algorithms that spit out a result
6 that range between 300 and 850 generally. It is an apt
7 descriptor of the actual results from those algorithms.

8 Now, the second step in this analysis is, because
9 it's a descriptive mark, the question becomes, well, have
10 they demonstrated or can they demonstrate secondary meaning.
11 That is to say, can they demonstrate that consumers have come
12 to associate 300 to 850 exclusively with Fair Isaac and view
13 it as a trademark and not merely a description of a feature
14 of the service. Without secondary meaning, the trademark
15 isn't valid. Plaintiffs have produced no evidence of
16 secondary meaning.

17 Now, Plaintiffs could have gone out into the
18 marketplace and done a secondary meaning survey. They could
19 have randomly selected consumers from around the country and
20 asked them: What do you think this -- what's the
21 significance of this 300 to 850 range to you, but they
22 didn't. Defendants did and Defendants have produced their
23 own secondary survey and that survey clearly shows that only
24 two percent of customers even recognized or thought that it
25 was a -- that a score with that range originated from a

1 single source, and only two out of 300 respondents identified
2 Fair Isaac as that source.

3 Now, I did want to turn briefly to keyword
4 advertising as well. Keyword advertising your Honor may be
5 familiar with. It's a common advertising practice where
6 advertisers purchase keywords, which can be common terms or
7 trademarks, in the hopes that when search engine users type
8 in the keyword into a search engine, that their ad will
9 appear on the screen next to the natural results of the
10 search, and it's usually in a part of the screen that is set
11 off to the side and is identified as advertisements or
12 sponsored links.

13 How common is this practice, really? Well, it's so
14 common that Fair Isaac has purchased Experian's trademark and
15 TransUnion's trademark and VantageScore's trademark and
16 Equifax's trademark.

17 And Brian, can you show that screen?

18 This is a list of key words that were purchased by
19 Fair Isaac to promote their own services and you can see all
20 of the trademarks of the defendants here. And on the next
21 screen in the middle there, it's a little bit hard to make
22 out, but there's a keyword purchase for "vantagescore fair
23 isaac."

24 Now, the facts on the keyword advertising issue are
25 not in dispute either. For a time TransUnion and Experian

1 both purchased FICO as a keyword. Neither one of them used
2 FICO in the visible text of the ad that was linked to the
3 keyword. So the question for the Court is whether under
4 these circumstances as a matter of law there can be no
5 liability for trademark infringement. Two courts have
6 addressed this issue and determined that under these facts
7 there is no liability for trademark infringement. No court
8 has ever found liability under those facts and circumstances.

9 And before I move on now to false advertising, if
10 your Honor has no further questions -- no questions, I'll
11 move on.

12 THE COURT: No, I think you can move on.

13 MR. GLANCY: Okay. Thank you.

14 Now, with respect to the false advertising claims,
15 as we set forth in our brief, Plaintiffs have not opposed
16 many of the claims that -- Defendants' motion with respect to
17 many of the advertising statements that they initially
18 alleged in their complaint, so as to those statements there
19 should be no question summary judgment is appropriate. What
20 remains in the case are three categories of statements and
21 I'll walk through them for you in a moment.

22 The first category is that VantageScore is, quote,
23 more predictive, close quote, than other scores. The second
24 is that VantageScore is, quote, used by lenders, close quote.
25 And the third is really a group -- large group of statements

1 that Plaintiffs contend all convey the message separately,
2 that Experian's PLUS score and TransUnion's TransRisk and
3 VantageScore are used by most lenders.

4 Now an essential element to any false advertising
5 claim is, it's axiomatic that the defendants have made a
6 false statement of fact, and there are two -- the courts are
7 very clear on this. There are two types of false statements.
8 There are literally false statements and then there are
9 implicitly false statements, false statements that although
10 literally true or ambiguous convey a misleading message.

11 Now, the plaintiffs have alleged that these
12 statements are literally false and literal falsity can be
13 decided as a matter of law. There are no material facts in
14 dispute here. So let me walk through these three categories.

15 First, the more predictive claim. Now, the burden
16 is on the plaintiff to show that that is a false statement.
17 That is to say that VantageScore is not more predictive than
18 other scores in the marketplace. As I say, the facts aren't
19 in dispute. Both the plaintiffs and the defendants rely on
20 the exact same evidence. We're both looking toward these
21 validation studies, many, many validation studies done by the
22 defendants and done by lenders out there in the marketplace
23 comparing VantageScore with other scores.

24 Now, Defendants' expert concluded that these tests
25 show that VantageScore is overwhelmingly more predictive.

1 Lenders have done their own tests. They've concluded the
2 same thing, that VantageScore is more predictive. Plaintiffs
3 hired their own expert and Plaintiffs' expert couldn't say
4 whether or not it was more predictive, so that testimony
5 doesn't get them where they need to be. That testimony
6 doesn't say that VantageScore is not more predictive than
7 other scores. And in fact, he acknowledged twice in his
8 expert report that on their face the results of those tests
9 demonstrate that VantageScore is more predictive. So
10 curiously, or perhaps not so curiously -- oh. I should
11 mention there's no dispute also that these scores measure
12 predictiveness, that the tests were accurate -- were properly
13 done and that the results were accurately reported. All of
14 that is not in dispute.

15 So, as I was saying, perhaps not surprisingly, the
16 plaintiffs in their paper do not rely on their expert to try
17 to defeat Defendants' motion. Instead, they attach to an
18 attorney declaration some excerpts from some of these tests,
19 and these excerpts, sure enough, show that VantageScore is
20 not more predictive than every other score in the marketplace
21 in all circumstances. But that is not ever what any of the
22 defendants have ever claimed. We never claimed that
23 VantageScore was the most predictive score. We never claimed
24 that the VantageScore will always beat every other score in
25 every circumstance. We just say that generally speaking it

1 is more predictive.

2 THE COURT: Than what?

3 MR. GLANCY: Than other scores in the marketplace.

4 And to the extent that there's an ambiguity about
5 whether or not we're comparing it to all other scores or some
6 other scores or most other scores, well, that ambiguity means
7 that this statement is not literally false. It means that
8 it's misleading and it was incumbent upon the plaintiffs to
9 come to court with a survey and they didn't do it. They had
10 two and a half years to do it and they didn't do it.

11 THE COURT: What's your authority that they're
12 required to have expert surveys in this area?

13 MR. GLANCY: Well, in the cases, **United Industries**
14 and the other cases we cited in our brief, it makes it clear
15 that when a statement is ambiguous it is, quote, critical,
16 close quote, from **United Industries**, that Plaintiffs
17 demonstrate that the, quote, advertising actually conveyed
18 the implied message and thereby deceived a significant
19 portion of the recipients.

20 THE COURT: Doesn't say expert survey, however.

21 MR. GLANCY: The cases say that this is usually
22 accomplished through survey evidence. It doesn't foreclose,
23 I suppose, other forms of evidence, but they haven't come
24 forward with any evidence that a significant portion of
25 recipients perceived the message that they allege and then

1 were deceived by it, and that's their burden. So the facts
2 aren't in dispute and it's just a failure of proof on this
3 issue and summary judgment is warranted.

4 Now, briefly turning to the used-by-lenders
5 statement, I think this is easily disposed of. They just
6 haven't pointed to any evidence that shows that VantageScore
7 wasn't used by lenders when that statement was made in
8 October of 2006, and nobody disputes the statement is true
9 now. VantageScore is used by many lenders.

10 Now, the third category, finally, is the claims
11 that are made about TransRisk and PLUS scores and
12 VantageScore that Plaintiffs argue all mean that these
13 scoring services are used by an appreciable number of
14 lenders.

15 Now, what are the accused statements at issue?
16 There are numerous statements alleged in the complaint. The
17 ones they've called out in their brief I suppose are the ones
18 they view as the most significant, so I'll turn to those.

19 At page 34 and 35 of their brief they accuse TU's
20 statement that: "Most lenders would view your
21 creditworthiness as" such and such. And they accuse
22 Experian's statement that: "Know where you stand no matter
23 which credit bureau your lender checks." And they accuse
24 VantageScore's statement that: "Most lenders offer their
25 good rates to consumers in this category," referring to a

1 particular scoring category of VantageScore.

2 Now, none of those statements say that our score is
3 used by an appreciable number of lenders or used by most
4 lenders. Their allegation with respect to what is insinuated
5 has changed over time and I invite the Court to review the
6 statements and we have a couple here on slides.

7 And, Bryan, if you can -- this is Experian's web
8 site. They say that -- when we say: "Do you know your
9 credit score?" what that really says is: "Our score is used
10 by most lenders."

11 Bryan, can you show the next one?

12 This is a page from Experian's PLUS score
13 purchasing page where on the top it says: "See the score" --
14 "See the same type of score that lenders see." That's true.
15 These are three-digit credit scores that tell you what your
16 creditworthiness is and there's just nothing false in that
17 statement.

18 Now, if -- again, the plaintiffs were required to
19 come to court with actual evidence of consumer deception,
20 which they haven't done. They haven't done a survey to show
21 that people were misled by this, so we feel that summary
22 judgment on this issue is warranted. Again, it's a failure
23 of proof.

24 Thank you, your Honor.

25 THE COURT: Before you sit down, I would like you

1 to address a couple remarks, backing up to the world of
2 trademark for just a second, on the estoppel argument as it
3 relates to Experian and TransUnion as licensees and what your
4 reaction is to that.

5 MR. GLANCY: Well, first of all, VantageScore --
6 nobody I think can contest that VantageScore is not estopped
7 to raise the argument.

8 With respect to TU, they have a written license
9 agreement that does not estop them. The plaintiffs are
10 claiming that there is an implied license, but the terms of
11 the license agreement itself sort of forecloses the idea of
12 an implied license, and not only an implied license to use
13 the range, but then an implied promise not to challenge the
14 range is just not sustainable.

15 And then finally with respect to Experian, it's
16 true they snuck into an addendum this 300 to 850 scoring
17 range as -- into the master agreement. No additional
18 compensation was paid for this. It was registered as an
19 optional trademark, optional for Experian to use. It was
20 part of an addendum that addressed other issues. It was
21 really sort of just slipped in there, we believe, to support
22 their litigation but certainly well after they claimed to
23 have had trademark rights in 300 to 850.

24 THE COURT: All right. Thank you.

25 MR. GLANCY: Thank you.

1 THE COURT: Mr. Schutz, I'll hear you with regard
2 to the plaintiffs' position on the Lanham Act issues.

3 MR. SCHUTZ: Your Honor, I have a couple slide
4 decks. May I approach?

5 THE COURT: Okay. You both chose blue backings to
6 further confuse me.

7 MR. SCHUTZ: It's a popular color, Judge.

8 THE COURT: All right. It's been tested to be
9 soothing or something?

10 MR. SCHUTZ: I guess so, persuasive and soothing.

11 (Laughter)

12 THE COURT: Oh. All right.

13 MR. SCHUTZ: Counts I through VII are at issue
14 here, Judge, and we'll just start with an overview of what
15 those counts are so that we've got the 30,000 foot view.

16 What's important here and I'll get to in a minute
17 is, of these seven counts, there is absolutely no attack on
18 the passing off counts, and I'll talk about that next. It's
19 important to understand what the defendants do not argue.

20 They are not challenging and they submit no basis
21 for dismissing our passing off, the deceptive trade practices
22 count or the unjust enrichment counts, 4, 6 and 7.

23 They also, as counsel has admitted, don't challenge
24 the trademark case on the likelihood of confusion aspect.

25 It's centered solely on whether the mark is valid, in other

1 words, whether it's a descriptive mark.

2 And on the false advertising, they don't challenge
3 whether that advertising has actually misled consumers. They
4 just go to the falsity prong.

5 So, what do we need to defeat this motion here,
6 Judge? Here's what we need on each of the aspects.

7 On the 300 to 850 marks, all we need to show is
8 that there are material issues of fact as to whether they are
9 material descriptive, but we've got several fire walls in
10 this trademark count, Judge. In fact, we've got three
11 separate fire walls here: the descriptive firewall, we've
12 got the secondary meaning firewall, and then we've got the
13 estoppel firewall.

14 On the false advertising, these claims are
15 literally false, and even if they're not literally false, we
16 have another firewall, and that's that there are material
17 issues of fact as to whether they are misleading.

18 On the keyword advertising, the issue here is
19 whether they're used to generate advertisements in commerce
20 and then with regard to the advertising claims about
21 VantageScore attributes and usage, there are clearly material
22 fact issues on whether they were literally false.

23 You will see, Judge, as we walk through the
24 evidence here that there is a pattern of deceptive conduct
25 that is present in almost everything the defendants do and it

1 overlays all the causes of action here in Counts 1 through 7.
2 They intentionally copied our marks, they prominently use
3 this numerical content, they make false statements about
4 their own scores, they use our terms for paid Internet terms,
5 and then they fail to disclose the true nature of their own
6 credit scores.

7 Let's cue now to this ad.

8 (Video played)

9 MR. SCHUTZ: Judge, that is an ad by Experian, and
10 it's just one example that hits all these areas of this
11 pattern of deceptive conduct here. It's an intentional
12 copying of our 300 to 850 mark. They said, you know, 450 to
13 850. That's certainly confusingly similar to our mark,
14 constitutes trademark infringement.

15 They prominently use that numerical content.

16 They also include false statements about their own
17 credit scores. The numeric reference cannot be to their
18 advertised PLUS score, because what they do is, when you
19 click and you go to that web site for Experian,
20 freecreditreport.com, it's the PLUS score, Experian's PLUS
21 score that they try to sell you. It doesn't go to 850, so
22 they mislead on that.

23 THE COURT: Would this be a different case if
24 their scores were 30 to 85?

25 MR. SCHUTZ: If their scores were 30 to 85, Judge,

1 we wouldn't be here.

2 THE COURT: Okay.

3 MR. SCHUTZ: At 30 to 85, it doesn't overlap the
4 range, doesn't have that, but that's not what they chose to
5 do and we'll get to why they explicitly chose to do what we
6 do. Let's talk about the passing off claim.

7 THE COURT: Do FICO scores ever end in, the three
8 digits, in anything other than zero? Do they make a
9 gradation beyond the 10?

10 MR. SCHUTZ: You mean like 721, for example?

11 THE COURT: Yes, as opposed to 720.

12 MR. SCHUTZ: I believe so. I don't think there's
13 any -- I guess the technical question I would have to look
14 into, but I don't think there's any reason why they couldn't
15 add in something less than zero.

16 On the passing off claim, Judge, the Minnesota
17 Deceptive Trade Practices Act has several provisions, four of
18 which we've cited here, that they violate.

19 It's also important to note that for the Deceptive
20 Trade Practices Act claim, there's no requirement that we
21 have a trademark. I mean, it can just be the activities that
22 are described here. It's a very broad, protective statute.
23 And even though there's some overlap with the Lanham Act,
24 there's no requirement for a trademark here and they don't
25 address that at all, so that claim survives this hearing no

1 matter what happens on everything else.

2 Let's now talk about their infringement of the 300
3 to 850 marks. Again, it's based solely on the fact that they
4 think the marks are descriptive. Let's look at what they do
5 here, Judge.

6 If you take a look at this particular document,
7 which I think comes from TransUnion, they are using our mark.
8 I mean, this is the scale that they put out there. They
9 aren't even trying to tweak it at all so it doesn't hit 300
10 to 850. They put the 300 to 850 mark right out there.

11 Here's another document from Truecredit, which is
12 again a TransUnion document. They've got the scale set forth
13 here again.

14 If we go to an Experian document, what we see is
15 Experian's in-house score range, 330 to 830, and you'll see
16 some documents that will come up here in a minute as to why
17 they chose that range, but 330 to 830 is certainly
18 confusingly similar to our 300 to 850 marks.

19 We've got some further evidence of the way that
20 Experian uses its marks on the next slide here, Judge, again,
21 all within the 300 to 850 marks.

22 Now let's go right to the heart of the issue of
23 descriptiveness. Counsel set forth what's a pretty standard
24 designation of how marks are classified. The focus here is
25 on the **Woodroast** -- Shelly's **Woodroast** case on what's a

1 descriptive mark. A descriptive mark according to that
2 court, quote: "immediately conveys the characteristics,
3 qualities or other features of a product" Well, our
4 marks are not descriptive. We have four registered
5 trademarks. They're deemed to be inherently distinctive and
6 thus qualify for trademark protection. And in fact, the
7 issue that came up in the Patent Office, in the Patent and
8 Trademark Office when these marks were under consideration,
9 the Patent and Trademark Office initially rejected the marks
10 on the basis that they were descriptive, and that argument
11 was overcome and it wasn't overcome by hoodwinking the
12 trademark examiner whatsoever if the Court goes -- and it's
13 part of the record -- and looks at the prosecution history of
14 those marks. So we have valid marks where this issue was
15 addressed and rejected.

16 Defendants' contention boils down to this, Judge:
17 They say that it's beyond dispute that 300 to 850 describes a
18 characteristic. Which characteristic? Upper and lower
19 boundaries. Well, that's simply not accurate. Three hundred
20 to 850 does not describe the upper and lower boundaries of
21 our range of possible scores. Mr. Collyard in his exhibit
22 lists several -- an exhibit to his affidavit lists several
23 different types of the various Fair Isaac scores and the
24 ranges are not 300 to 850. They lap over the ends on both
25 sides.

1 The defendants admit that the numeric scale is
2 merely cosmetic.

3 And -- this is important, Judge, and we're going to
4 explore this next -- there's no competitive need to use 300
5 to 850. So from a public policy standpoint in terms of the
6 public policy of giving a mark to someone that would put a
7 competitor at a disadvantage or pull something out of the
8 public domain that couldn't -- like the term "apple" for "red
9 fruit," for example, that's not what was done here.

10 This is a slide that Defendants used claiming that
11 we're using our mark in a descriptive context. Well, that's
12 simply not true, Judge. If you look at the entirety of this
13 ad, you see where the arrow is there's a reference to 300 to
14 850, but you will also see that our trademark is very
15 prominent in here. And when we filed on the first
16 application, which is 300 to 850, without any adornment or
17 seal, it was an intent-to-use application and the evidence of
18 the use of that without any adornment -- you'll see coming up
19 here on the screen. This is in fact what we showed the
20 Patent Office for what I'll call the naked 300 to 850 without
21 any adornment, was in fact this one with the seal as the
22 intent to use. So the seal is not required. We have a
23 trademark simply without the seal.

24 So let's look at some additional case law and some
25 examples of what are descriptive marks and what are not

1 descriptive, all right?

2 Again, from the Shelly's **Woodroast** case:

3 "Descriptive marks immediately convey the 'characteristics,
4 qualities or other features of a product'...."

5 Here are examples from McCarthy's treatise on
6 trademark law on descriptive marks, okay: Frosty Treats,
7 Beer Nuts, Car-Freshener, Bed & Bath, Honey Roast, Itool,
8 Raisin Bran. I mean, Frosty Treats for frozen desserts and
9 ice cream, Frosty Treats immediately brings to mind frozen
10 desserts and ice cream, Beer Nuts for salted nuts,
11 et cetera.

12 Let's now look, Judge, at what have been viewed as
13 not descriptive, marks that are not descriptive: Roach Motel
14 for an insect trap, Dial-A-Mattress for mattress sales,
15 Florida Tan for suntan lotion, Action Slacks for pants. I
16 mean, Action Slacks for pants, there's a much better argument
17 that that is a descriptive mark than 300 to 850 for credit
18 scores. Three hundred to 850 doesn't meet the Shelly's
19 **Woodroast** test of immediately bringing to mind the
20 characteristics, qualities or other features of the product.
21 Action Slacks arguably does more so. It has been held to be
22 found not descriptive, as are all the other marks here on
23 slide number 20.

24 Here's another example from the **Tanel** case, your
25 Honor, involving the mark 360° for I believe it was

1 basketball shoes. Again, it's a number mark and even though
2 it describes the circular shape of the cleat on the shoe
3 being sold here, the court in that case found that it doesn't
4 meet the criteria to be descriptive and that trademark was
5 allowed as valid.

6 Then, Judge, we get to the second firewall here on
7 the trademark case, which is that even if the Court were to
8 have some concern that the marks were merely descriptive,
9 there are certainly then material issues of disputed facts as
10 to whether they've acquired secondary meaning. There are
11 many ways you can show secondary meaning in the case law.
12 You do not have to use a survey. You can use defendant's
13 intentional copying, for example, and evidence of consumer
14 confusion, both of which we've done in the brief and I'll
15 show you here.

16 THE COURT: Doesn't evidence of consumer confusion
17 require some sort of survey or expert, though?

18 MR. SCHUTZ: You can show that by a survey or you
19 can show it by direct actual evidence and we have direct
20 actual evidence that we're going to get to here in a minute,
21 your Honor.

22 On the issue of copying, if we look, these are
23 documents from each of the defendants here and they're
24 referenced, the Court can look them up, but what did each of
25 the defendants do here? Let's look at the first call-out:

1 "I think we should use the range 300-850 to be completely
2 compatible with the FICO scale (which is what we are trying
3 to mimic)." There is no statement here they picked, one of
4 the bad guys picked 300 to 850 because they needed it for
5 competitive purposes. They basically wanted to rip
6 Fair Isaac off and that's what they did.

7 The next document: "Simplify wording, mirror FICO
8 for ease of adoption, or as agreed by team." Again,
9 intentional copying.

10 Then we go down to the next call-out: "FICO's
11 score range is 350-850. We wanted to keep it close, but not
12 exactly like FICO's." I believe that's from the Experian
13 documents, your Honor. Remember that their PLUS score is 330
14 to 830. So they looked at that, they didn't want to copy it
15 exactly, but they wanted to be close. And they didn't want
16 to be close for any competitive reasons. They wanted to be
17 close because they wanted to trade on Fair Isaac's goodwill
18 and the fact that people associate 300 to 850 with
19 Fair Isaac.

20 And of course, same Experian document here: "Based
21 on the new score model the lowest and highest possible score
22 is 424 to 818," so they picked the range again not
23 descriptive of anything, not of their actual scores, but 330
24 to 830 because it was close to Fair Isaac.

25 We've got another document here, Judge, that

1 illustrates in as clear a way as you can that there's no need
2 to pick 300 to 850 for competitive purposes. This is a
3 document that shows what a score is, but if you want to see
4 it on a zero to 100 scale, it's on a web site, you can click
5 here and you can get a zero to 100 scale. So there are
6 clearly other scales that the defendants know about,
7 considered, and rejected.

8 Let's now go -- there's some additional information
9 here, Judge. Did I jump ahead too far? Zero to 100.

10 Then we go to Project Trident, Judge. One of the
11 things that happened with regard to Project Trident was a
12 survey, a poll, rather, gathered by the Gallup organization
13 to determine what score range should we pick. And they
14 conducted this poll and Question 2 was: "As you may know, a
15 person's official credit score goes from a low of 330 to a
16 high of 830. Would you find it more useful for the score to
17 go from 0 to 100, would you prefer the score remain as it
18 is," does it matter to you, et cetera. "More consumers
19 prefer the 0-100 scale." So notwithstanding the results of
20 what consumers would rather prefer and that you can in fact
21 use zero to 100, there's no competitive reason to go 300 to
22 850. They chose a score range that's confusingly similar to
23 our mark.

24 Now, we've also got evidence of consumer confusion,
25 Judge. This document is a script from Experian that they

1 gave to the people operating their -- at the customer call
2 center because they'd gotten so many questions regarding
3 confusion about the FICO score with their own score that they
4 had to come up with a script for their people to use. And as
5 you can see here, you know, they were getting calls and they
6 are anticipating -- not anticipating. They'd gotten so many
7 calls about the confusion that they had to come up with a
8 script for their people to use on how to address that.

9 Here's another piece of evidence, Judge, briefly,
10 on the consumer confusion that talks about most of the time
11 when people are calling they're not asking about the Experian
12 score, but FICO comes up a lot.

13 Further evidence of consumer confusion from
14 TransUnion. This is again out of Exhibit 6 of Mr. Collyard's
15 declaration. It has a lot of excerpts showing what happens,
16 what kind of calls they're getting: "Customer thought it was
17 a FICO score," "TransRisk vs. FICO, thought he bought FICO
18 from us, referred him to [different] website." VantageScore,
19 same type of evidence, Judge. And we just pulled a couple
20 excerpts out here. There's a lot more in the exhibits.

21 Then we have a document from TransUnion that
22 basically admits that there's an incomplete description of
23 the scoring offered on their site. "Some customers believe
24 that the score that they are receiving is the Fair Isaac ...
25 score."

1 THE COURT: I think I better move you to false
2 advertising.

3 MR. SCHUTZ: I think so, Judge. I think the point
4 here remains. Let's move on to -- briefly on the estoppel
5 issue, Judge, because you asked opposing counsel about that.
6 There's a contract with Experian. There's an implied license
7 with TransUnion. We talked about that in the slides and in
8 the brief.

9 Now, with regard to VantageScore, we haven't found
10 any case law on this one way or the other, but there's a
11 matter of equity. Someone's agent -- in other words,
12 VantageScore is nothing more than a joint venture between all
13 these parties. They should not be able to create a joint
14 venture what they themselves do not do, so they should be
15 estopped. So that's the three firewalls.

16 Let's go to the false advertising, Judge. It's on
17 slide 35.

18 The advertising claims in fact are literally false,
19 and if not, there's certainly a question of fact as to
20 whether they're misleading.

21 The test here, of course, involves falsity by
22 implication, but let's go on to see the different types of
23 claims that we're talking about. We've got the lender
24 claims.

25 So here's an example of a document where they say

1 the score that helps lenders decide whether they can give you
2 a loan.

3 We have the same thing from another Experian
4 document, same type of score that lenders see.

5 And we've got another document here from -- I
6 believe this is from TransUnion again saying this is from the
7 lender's perspective.

8 Another document, this one I believe from Experian,
9 same thing, the lender's check. We can go through these
10 quite quickly. We put several of these examples up here,
11 Judge, where they are basically saying our scores, "our"
12 being the defendants, in-house scores are what lenders use,
13 and we've cited to the brief evidence that that's just simply
14 not the case and lenders don't use that. In fact, I believe
15 the Experian score is not used by any lenders and the
16 TransUnion score is used by like one percent.

17 And with regard to the VantageScore, at the time
18 the statements we allege were made, VantageScore was in fact
19 not being used by any lenders. It is today, but at the time
20 the statements were made it was not.

21 And I've got a few minutes left, Judge, so let's
22 move ahead in the interest of my being cognizant of the
23 Court's time briefly on the keyword advertising.

24 It's undisputed here that, you know, Experian has
25 used the FICO mark and Fair Isaac in its keyword advertising.

1 And there are some material issues of fact regarding
2 TransUnion's use of the FICO mark, but it's undisputed they
3 use 850 as a keyword.

4 The cases in this area -- and the Court's aware of
5 this from reading it and I know the Court had the Hysitron
6 case. Around the country they're breaking down to two camps.
7 If you buy keywords, is it use in commerce? And at least two
8 courts, I would submit, in this district, two judges in this
9 district have said yes, and there are some other districts
10 around the country where the courts have said no. If you
11 come down that's a use in commerce, they've in fact done
12 that, and we cite a lot of evidence -- some of it's in the
13 deck here, Judge -- where we show -- this is, for example,
14 the documents that we got from Google showing what Experian
15 bought, they bought these marks. We've got TransUnion in
16 fact buying some keyword advertising here. You can see a
17 screen shot that the FICO score is put in and what comes up
18 on the screen is a paid link to a TransUnion site.

19 Now, they've made an argument in the brief -- it's
20 kind of subtle and I'll just touch on it briefly -- that
21 there's a TransUnion site that actually sells a FICO score
22 and that therefore they have authority to, you know, buy our
23 mark to use to sell in fact a FICO score on their site.
24 While that may be true, that's not the case for this
25 particular site, which is, if I can read this right,

1 truecredit.com. There's another site -- and I can't
2 remember, it ends in .cs, I think -- where they sell FICO
3 scores, but not on this site. This link is to in fact try to
4 sell a TransUnion score. And then we have the evidence here
5 of the keywords that they actually purchased.

6 VantageScore attributes, Judge. Very briefly
7 finishing up on just the last couple of points here on
8 predictiveness. It's the last slide.

9 On the comparative predictiveness of VantageScore,
10 they are literally false. I mean, the statement is -- and I
11 wanted to make sure I've got it right. This is another -- to
12 quote the record here, this is from Exhibit 25 of the --

13 MR. SCHUTZ: Is this in the complaint, Mike?

14 And there's a statement, one of the things we
15 quote, where Barrett Burns, who's the CEO of VantageScore,
16 said: "The new score has the advantage of being based on
17 fresh data making it more predictive than what's in the
18 market." So that's what they claim.

19 There are 232 tests, however, showing either FICO
20 or a bureau in-house score beating VantageScore. We cite the
21 record on that, so the statement is in fact literally false
22 and was literally false when made.

23 With regard to the used-by-lender statement, as I
24 mentioned earlier, at the time the statement was made it was
25 false because the first national lender did not adopt it till

1 2007.

2 I think I hit about 20 minutes, Judge. Thank you.

3 Unless you have any questions, thank you very much.

4 THE COURT: No, that's fine.

5 Mr. Glancy, I think you have a few minutes left in
6 rebuttal.

7 MR. GLANCY: By my count I have about four or five
8 minutes left. Thank you.

9 Just to briefly address false advertising, because
10 I didn't hear anything in there that was different from what
11 are in the briefs, but on the question of estoppel and
12 whether VantageScore is estopped by virtue of its
13 relationship with the other defendants. There is no
14 allegation here that there's any privity with respect to any
15 contractual relationships between the other defendants and
16 Fair Isaac and certainly they've made no effort to pierce the
17 presumption of corporate separateness that attaches to every
18 corporation.

19 Now, turning to the trademark infringement claims,
20 the emphasis, really, for them is on the fact that the
21 defendants copied the scoring range, but the argument is
22 really circular. If there's nothing protectable in the
23 scoring range, of course the defendants are free to copy it.
24 In fact, competition encourages copying of unprotectable
25 matter. It's the essence of fair competition, not unfair

1 competition. So to say that because we copied it it must be
2 protectable is really putting the cart before the horse.

3 Now, you mentioned 30 to 85, would that be an
4 acceptable scoring range. It would not be a possible scoring
5 range because simply lenders or computer systems are geared
6 toward three-digit ranges, and of course three-digit --

7 THE COURT: 30.0?

8 MR. GLANCY: 30.0 puts a decimal point in there.
9 And certainly a three-digit range gives you a greater degree
10 of precision and having a 721-type score.

11 Now, with respect to the descriptiveness of the
12 mark, it should be pointed out that the seal marks, nobody's
13 alleged that we are doing anything like a seal here, and the
14 fact that they put their descriptive mark in a seal of course
15 doesn't make it protectable either. They put other things in
16 there, in that seal, like "officially certified." Is that
17 now a trademark of Fair Isaac? They take other words and put
18 them in bold, like "free." That doesn't afford them
19 trademark protection. The question is whether or not as
20 applied to these services it is descriptive. It is
21 unquestionably a description of the scoring range of the
22 service and for them to suggest that it's not because
23 somewhere back in the back room the scientists can tell that
24 the absolute minimum and absolute maximum don't exactly match
25 300 to 850 is really specious. Consumers don't know what's

1 in the back room at Fair Isaac. Consumers see what they're
2 doing with the mark and they see them describing their
3 scoring range as 300 to 850, and that's all that matters here
4 is what consumers perceive the mark to be, not what somebody
5 in the back room at Fair Isaac says.

6 Their 360 degree case, just a brief comment on
7 that. The product at issue there was a shoe. It wasn't the
8 cleat of the shoe. So 360, circular, the shoe wasn't a
9 circle, so it wasn't descriptive of the product.

10 Now, with respect briefly to the consumer confusion
11 evidence, if you take a look closely at that evidence, not
12 only is it hearsay for the reasons we stated in our brief.
13 It is extremely hard to say exactly what's causing this
14 confusion. There's an awful lot of confusion out there about
15 credit scoring generally. Because Fair Isaac is the dominant
16 player in the market, it's not surprising that some people
17 would expect to get a FICO score when they go someplace else.
18 But how is a competitor to compete? How is a new entrant to
19 come into the market and say, "Here we are. We can give you
20 a credit score too" without risking some level of confusion?
21 But their assumption here is that the confusion is caused by
22 the scoring range and there's just absolutely -- that's
23 speculation. There's absolutely no evidence to support it.
24 Now, a survey could have done that, but they didn't do a
25 proper survey, an admissible survey, to show that the

1 confusion is caused by the scoring range and not by some
2 preconceived misconceptions or general confusion, which is
3 not actionable.

4 Now, finally with respect to keyword advertising --
5 briefly with respect to the passing off claim, passing off
6 requires conduct that's likely to cause confusion or
7 deception. The conduct that they've alleged is the trademark
8 infringement and the false advertising. I have never heard
9 them say -- and it's not in their complaint -- that there's
10 some separate conduct that constitutes passing off. So if
11 we're not infringing their trademark and we're not false
12 advertising, then we're effectively competing, and that's
13 what the law encourages.

14 And lastly with respect to the keyword advertising,
15 the issue here is not use in commerce. That's a smoke
16 screen. That's a red herring. The cases we've cited say
17 clearly after doing an analysis of the use-in-commerce issue
18 that the likelihood of confusion on the trademark, there is
19 no likelihood of confusion in this circumstance and I think a
20 fair look at their printout of the web page which shows the
21 ad that comes up that's associated with the keyword really
22 demonstrates why. You take a look at that and you see on the
23 page there natural results that aren't linking to Fair Isaac
24 and you see that there are some ads that do and some ads that
25 don't link to Fair Isaac. Consumers don't necessarily expect

1 that everything that they get back in a search hit list is
2 going to relate -- is going to be exactly identical to what
3 they searched for, so there's some amount of discerning that
4 goes on here. Courts have found that unless there's
5 something explicitly misleading in the visible text, that
6 there can be no likelihood of confusion based on simply
7 buying a trademark as a keyword.

8 And I have nothing further. Thank you, your Honor.

9 THE COURT: Thank you. That brings us to
10 Counts 13 and 14, the contract claims and bifurcation. Let's
11 see. I'm going to hear from Mr. Gardner, I believe, on that.

12 MR. GARDNER: Hopefully we're closer to the end
13 than the beginning. I'm going to do this the old-fashioned
14 way, Judge. I don't have a PowerPoint to hand up, so I'm
15 going to stand here and talk and hope that --

16 THE COURT: It's not going to prejudice you, I can
17 assure you.

18 MR. GARDNER: -- you will follow me. I've got ten
19 minutes to do all this. I'm going to try to get through the
20 first part in about six or seven and hold three or four at
21 the end if I don't go over my time limit.

22 This claim is solely against TransUnion and it's a
23 breach-of-contract claim, although it has very similar
24 attributes to it as the rest of the case. There are certain
25 common threads that run through this case and they're shown

1 also in the breach-of-contract case.

2 Now, it arises because Fair Isaac sends the
3 specifications to TransUnion for its algorithm on paper.
4 They give us, for lack of a term, the secret sauce.
5 TransUnion then has programmers that program those
6 specifications into TransUnion's computer system and then as
7 a result of that that algorithm gets matched with the data in
8 the computer system, generates a score, in this case a FICO
9 score.

10 Now, because of that situation it was very
11 important that the parties, particularly for Fair Isaac, that
12 they provide some mechanism to ensure that TransUnion doesn't
13 misuse that data, but at the same time, TransUnion also, in
14 addition to selling FICO scores, sells other scores, so the
15 contract really has two stages to it.

16 The first stage is we get this data and we have to
17 protect it. It is their secret sauce. There's no question
18 about it. But on the other hand, we do our own credit score.
19 So the contracts specifically contemplate and allow
20 TransUnion to compete against TransUnion and they allow
21 TransUnion to use information that is available publicly and
22 to produce their own scores.

23 Now, how do we get to where we are today?
24 Actually, this is really the third act in a play and the
25 first two acts didn't come out so well for them.

1 The first act, and when we were in front of you the
2 last time, although this wasn't part of what was here, the
3 major part of this case at the time seemed to be a claim that
4 VantageScore could not have been developed in the lightning
5 speed, they claim, that it was developed in, so TransUnion
6 must have misappropriated FICO's information, and that was a
7 central part of their case. That was act one.

8 We had a lot of discovery, we produced the
9 algorithms, their experts looked at it, our expert looked at
10 it, and we finally said to them, "Tell us what it is. What
11 have we taken? What are the trade secrets?" And Magistrate
12 Judge Mayeron said, "Okay, FICO. May 15th is the date by
13 which you have to tell everybody what it is that they did
14 wrong." Well, May 15th came and you know what they did?
15 They gave up. They said, "We don't have nothing. We've got
16 nothing to demonstrate that you misused any of our" --
17 "misappropriated any of our confidential information." They
18 dismissed that claim with prejudice. That's key to where we
19 are now.

20 Then what happens next? Next they say: Well, we
21 can't establish that our claim was based on misappropriation,
22 so now let's say that we misused their information.

23 We take the deposition of their expert, and this is
24 on page 7. I'm going to try to combine here a little bit our
25 separate trial arguments with the breach of contract,

1 although I will say just in passing, your Honor, the separate
2 trial is a double "what if." It's what if this case is still
3 going and what if we don't get summary judgment here, and we
4 can talk about that.

5 THE COURT: But if we get there, wouldn't it be
6 nice to do this twice.

7 (Laughter)

8 MR. GARDNER: Well, it depends -- no, it would be
9 horrible to do it twice, but the problem is, what they want
10 to do is, they want to try their case twice and we want to
11 try our case once. I mean, we've got a breach-of-contract
12 case and we've got an antitrust case. Let's not try the
13 antitrust case, assuming there is one, in the
14 breach-of-contract case.

15 So what do we say about misuse, their expert?

16 Our question: "Do you have any reason to believe
17 that the VantageScore model development team used any
18 information that was confidential to Fair Isaac?"

19 "Answer: I have no reason to believe that they
20 used such information."

21 Okay. So, act two. That's gone. So now we're
22 back to -- we've gone to our bench and now we're on the third
23 string, and the third string is, okay, maybe here we can make
24 an argument out of the contract. We've got no wrongful
25 conduct.

1 Now, that's what we're here today to decide, but
2 it's very important, your Honor, to put this in perspective.

3 It's another example of how this case evolves. It's a much
4 different case than it was when it started and this is a
5 perfect example of it.

6 Now, what you have to look at in the contract
7 initially is the definition of FICO property. There's a very
8 broad definition of FICO property and it basically includes
9 their recipe, their secret sauce. And we don't dispute that
10 the contract says what it says. The question, though, your
11 Honor, is not what that says, but what are TU's obligations.
12 That's what you have to decide, what are TU's obligations
13 under the contract.

14 Now, they want you to decide that obligation by
15 only looking at one provision of the contract, the contract
16 that says this is our stuff and we own it all. However, they
17 don't want you to look at two very important provisions of
18 the contract.

19 The first one, I quote -- this is on page 3, page 2
20 and 3 of our opening brief: "The parties acknowledge that
21 the jointly developed scoring products and services will
22 compete with other non-Fair Isaac developed scoring
23 products."

24 The second one is: "The contract specifically
25 excludes from confidentiality obligations information

1 'generally available to the public or independently developed
2 by employees of TransUnion.'"

3 So here we have this tension here. The tension is,
4 yes, we have to keep their stuff confidential, but what are
5 our obligations in light of the fact that we are producing
6 scores and were we're permitted to do so? The problem with
7 their interpretation -- well, there's two problems with it.

8 First, as your Honor well knows in deciding a
9 number of contract cases, when construing a contract you got
10 to look at the whole document. You can't just look at the
11 section that they want to look at. You got to look at it all
12 to see what the parties' intent was. So when you look at it
13 all you can see that, sure, they had to protect their
14 property, but on the other hand, we had the right to compete.

15 Now, their argument basically taken to its point is
16 basically absurd. What they're saying essentially is -- not
17 essentially, they say it. They say we can't use TransUnion
18 data to do a score. We can't use a statistical regression
19 analysis to do a score. Well, that can't be right. I mean,
20 it's as if they -- and I hate to use this example, because I
21 think it demeans the sophisticated nature of what we have
22 here, but I was thinking about it last night. It's like
23 they've got a recipe for a spaghetti sauce and we're making
24 their spaghetti sauce. They've got a great recipe and we
25 can't take their recipe and use their recipe to make our own

1 spaghetti sauce, and we didn't. In fact, the proof is all to
2 the opposite. They abandoned their misappropriation claim,
3 and their own expert, the only people that could see these
4 algorithms, said, well, there's no reason to believe that we
5 misused any of their information. So what are they saying
6 now? Yeah, go ahead. You can make a spaghetti sauce, but
7 you can't use tomatoes. Well, that's the absurdity of their
8 argument. They're basically saying we can compete against
9 them, but we can't compete against them with the essential
10 nature of what it takes to compete.

11 Now, what they're also trying to do here -- and
12 this is kind of cute -- is, they're attempting to expand some
13 implied duty of good faith and fair dealing to say, well,
14 what's really going on here, TransUnion is trying to drive us
15 out of business. Well, they've got that in the antitrust
16 case.

17 In the contract case there are specific elements
18 that are obligations of TransUnion in the contract case.
19 Those obligations set the parties' obligations, the ones we
20 just talked about, about competing, holding their information
21 confidential. There are other obligations and here's there's
22 a total failure or lack of proof that we did anything to not
23 market their scores properly. We sell -- we being TransUnion
24 -- sells more FICO scores than any other score. Those sales
25 have increased since VantageScore. So they don't even argue

1 this in their brief in terms of arguing with respect to the
2 specific provision. They're trying to take this concept,
3 this elusive concept of good faith and fair dealing and
4 overriding everything.

5 I'm sure -- and I haven't been keeping track, your
6 Honor, but I'm reasonably sure I probably went over my six
7 minutes.

8 MR. SCHUTZ: I'm positive.

9 THE COURT: All right.

10 MR. GARDNER: And I apologize for that. With your
11 Honor's indulgence, if I have some time --

12 THE COURT: I was listening and I lost track of
13 time as well, but I agree. You've used it up and we'll give
14 Mr. Schutz a couple minutes extra in response.

15 MR. GARDNER: Okay. Thank you.

16 MR. SCHUTZ: Judge, I have a couple of -- a deck.
17 May I approach the bench?

18 THE COURT: Yes.

19 MR. SCHUTZ: The only thing that Mr. Gardner and I
20 do agree on is that he's old-fashioned.

21 (Laughter)

22 THE COURT: That's not a bad thing.

23 MR. GARDNER: Is there something wrong with that?

24 THE COURT: I was going to say not in my book.
25 That's fine.

1 MR. SCHUTZ: Well, it depends.

2 Judge, contract claims. Fairly simple. We've got
3 two sophisticated parties here that negotiated a contract and
4 all we are coming to court and saying is they should be held
5 to the benefit of their bargain and meet their contractual
6 obligations, and at the summary judgment stage to argue that
7 there is no disputed issue of material fact regarding these
8 contractual provisions, I submit that that's simply not the
9 case. So it comes down to a couple of issues.

10 The first issue is a couple things. TU does not
11 dispute that the VantageScore model includes some concepts
12 and aspects that are the same as Fair Isaac's models. They
13 also don't dispute that these are our property. The only
14 issue is that can the contracts be prohibited -- interpreted
15 as prohibiting TransUnion from using this in the VantageScore
16 model. The answer is yes. There's certainly a fact issue on
17 this. When you start looking at the contract language which
18 we'll do here in just a minute, you can't get to the answer
19 no.

20 The second issue, they don't dispute again that
21 they agreed to act as our agent in marketing and selling and
22 that as our agent they have a duty of good faith and loyalty
23 here. The only issue again is does the evidence show that
24 TransUnion's trying to destroy our scoring business
25 sufficient to show a material issue of fact and the answer is

1 yes. I mean, we spent tons of time on the antitrust part.
2 Their goal is to put us out of business and that's totally
3 inconsistent with being our agent and acting in that
4 capacity. So let's just take a quick look at the --

5 THE COURT: Is there any evidence that they've
6 sold less FICO scores?

7 MR. SCHUTZ: You know, that's really not the issue
8 and it's a red herring, Judge, and here's why: It's absent
9 any evidence of what they might have done had they not been
10 trying put us out of business, make these other statements,
11 trade off on everything that we've said. They said they've
12 sold more in I think '07 than they did in '06 and '05, but if
13 they hadn't done these, maybe they'd have sold an additional
14 50 percent more. They simply can't prevail at the summary
15 judgment stage by making that statement. It's an incomplete
16 argument on their part.

17 So if we look at the language, this again
18 sophisticated contracting party that talks about what's our
19 property, they agree and acknowledge -- it's fairly broadly
20 written -- as to what our property is here and that we own
21 it. And if we go on to -- and it includes models, okay, and
22 we're the sole and absolute owners of the existing and future
23 versions of the models and all proprietary rights in such
24 items, et cetera.

25 Now, if we go to the next section that defines

1 "model," it's very broadly defined. It's not limited to --
2 this is just by way of example what's set forth in here.

3 It's score weights, algorithms, characteristics, attributes,
4 attribute breakouts, et cetera, et cetera, very broadly
5 defined, and they agreed to that, Judge.

6 And we go to the next statement. It's also clear
7 here, next part of the contract, that this is not limited to
8 trade secrets. This is a case where the parties agreed to
9 respect certain property even if it did not meet the
10 definition of trade secrets. So as much as Mr. Gardner might
11 have wanted to argue the trade secret case, that's not what
12 we're dealing with here, Judge, and we have protection that
13 is different from this contract than what we had under the
14 trade secret laws.

15 Now, what did TransUnion agree to do after we go
16 through the contract and we see they acknowledge that the
17 model is our property, the model is very broadly defined?
18 What do they agree? They agreed that they shall not copy,
19 reproduce, or in any way duplicate the models, in whole or in
20 part, with any other computer programs, and what is it that
21 they in fact have done?

22 I don't believe, your Honor, that we put in the
23 briefs anywhere that we said they can't use their own data.
24 I think that's simply not correct, but we have listed here on
25 slide 8 at least five bullet points that show what aspects of

1 the VantageScore scoring model represent a breach of their
2 agreement with us.

3 VantageScore model, again, based on many of the
4 same development concepts, in other words, designed to
5 predict the likelihood of serious delinquencies of 90 days
6 late or more within a 24-month period. They didn't have to
7 do that. They could have, you know, picked any other period.
8 They could have picked a delinquency of 60 days, 120 days, it
9 could have been 18 months, could have been 30 months, all
10 kinds of other options they had, but they did what we do.

11 They also use the same attributes. They use
12 multiple inquiry de-duplication, a log-odds approach.

13 They also have a scoring range that low is bad and
14 high is good.

15 THE COURT: Tell me what an attribute is.

16 MR. SCHUTZ: The attribute, Judge, if we go to --
17 a characteristic is -- I can give you an example. A
18 characteristic is --

19 THE COURT: Maybe just giving me an example would
20 help.

21 MR. SCHUTZ: Yeah, I will. That's what I'm going
22 to do.

23 THE COURT: Oh. All right.

24 MR. SCHUTZ: A characteristic is a trade account,
25 okay? A trade account is a credit card account. An

1 attribute is a number for that characteristic, two credit
2 cards, three credit cards --

3 THE COURT: Is this a number that goes into the
4 formula?

5 MR. SCHUTZ: Yup. That's what it is. They use a
6 three-digit score again and they use similar adverse action
7 codes. An adverse action code is if you're denied credit,
8 you know, what changes that.

9 So it comes down to, quite frankly, a classic fact
10 question. We're not here arguing that we win the case.
11 We're arguing that we're entitled to go to a jury on the
12 case. That's the procedural posture.

13 And again, their whole argument boils down to
14 another provision in the contract, the confidentiality
15 provision, and they are trying to argue that the
16 confidentiality provision trumps the provisions that I've
17 just talked about and that's certainly not the case, in our
18 view, and certainly it's an issue for the jury to decide down
19 the road.

20 Now, moving to just the last two points, your
21 Honor, on the issue of TransUnion agreeing to act as our
22 limited agent for purposes of marketing and selling, you
23 know, here's the contractual language that we're talking
24 about. They agreed that for those purposes they will in fact
25 act as our agent and what have they done, how have they

1 breached those agency duties.

2 Well, they're obligated to act in good faith and
3 with loyalty and they don't deny this, but what they've done
4 is they've engaged in these conspiratorial acts against us in
5 violation of the antitrust laws, violation of contractual
6 duties.

7 And the whole purpose -- and this is from
8 TransUnion's meetings notes. You can see the last bullet
9 points on the page. What do they say? "Replace FICO
10 anywhere they appear; B2B" -- which means business to
11 business -- "and Consumer; everyone would see the same
12 score." That's TransUnion meeting notes on Project Trident.
13 So this is our agent out to sell stuff and what they're
14 saying is they want to put us out of business. They want to
15 replace every score with a VantageScore. The fact that they
16 might not have done it yet doesn't change the fact that it's
17 still their goal. I don't think they're backing away with
18 trying to have VantageScore replace them in the marketplace.

19 And finally, this is just a follow-on, the
20 interference-with-contract claim. They basically say if you
21 get rid of the breach-of-contract claim, you got to get rid
22 of the interference-with-contract claim. Again, that's a
23 circular argument. We don't think the first should be
24 dismissed and therefore the latter survives.

25 And I don't know -- I guess we -- I don't know if

1 we addressed the issue of separate trials or not. I just
2 have one slide that we've thrown in there. The evidence is
3 so overlapping, your Honor, it doesn't seem to make any sense
4 to us if the case proceeds forward to have a separate trial
5 on a breach-of-contract claim separate and apart from the
6 main case because the facts are so intertwined.

7 Thank you very much.

8 THE COURT: All right.

9 Mr. Gardner, I think you will be in pain if I don't
10 give you a minute or two to make your rebuttal argument
11 before you get on the airplane.

12 MR. GARDNER: Thank you. A couple things.

13 We're not just relying on trade secrets. We're
14 saying that they abandoned their trade secret claim. To the
15 extent that there's any claim that we've misused their
16 property, their evidence has come up with zero, so there's no
17 evidence that we've misused their property.

18 Now, as far as the contracts are concerned, they
19 can't say that we didn't do a good job selling their score.
20 They can't say that. We did. It's the most popular score in
21 the market. It's the biggest score that we sell. So when we
22 look at the contract, we fulfilled all our contract
23 obligations as their agent. We did a darn good job as their
24 agent. Now, they have complaints about us with respect to
25 VantageScore, but that's not in the breach-of-contract case.

1 I mean, that's part of what's happening here is, they're
2 trying to meld all this together.

3 Now, Mr. Schutz said a couple times, well, let's
4 let a jury decide that. Well, a jury isn't going to decide
5 it, because as your Honor is aware, the two contracts that
6 are really at issue in this case, the generic credit scoring
7 cases, have jury waivers, so the trier of fact in those cases
8 is you. So this is not -- there aren't issues of fact here
9 that we believe are left to a jury. These are
10 interpretations of a contract which we think your Honor --
11 which your Honor can decide.

12 And I think in conclusion what I'd like to say is,
13 the theme that runs throughout this case is Fair Isaac has
14 had kind of a charmed life. They've had the majority of
15 their business life without competition. And they may have
16 been entitled to rely on the fact that they were the first
17 ones there and they are the language. FICO is to credit
18 scoring as Kleenex is to tissues. And then one day what
19 happens is competition shows up at their door. Well,
20 naturally they're not going to like it. And their reaction
21 to that competition is, one, this lawsuit, but two, it's what
22 you see through every one of these claims in terms of the
23 progression of how they start and where they are today with
24 their antitrust claims, with the continuing theory changes,
25 with their intellectual property claims, and now at the

1 bottom -- and I hope we think it's at the bottom -- is their
2 claims against TransUnion. They failed on claim one, they
3 failed on claim two, let's try this one and see if it works,
4 and you ought not let them get away with it.

5 Thank you for your patience, your Honor.

6 THE COURT: All right. Well, I've heard excellent
7 arguments by quality lawyers. I have an abundance of
8 briefing that's been done in this case.

9 I want no further submissions. The only thing that
10 I would entertain by way of a post-hearing submission is a
11 U.S. Supreme Court case that's right on point or an Eighth
12 Circuit case. Beyond that, I don't want to hear from you
13 until I rule.

14 All right. Court is in recess.

15 (Proceedings concluded at 11:40 a.m.)

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C E R T I F I C A T E

I, **TIMOTHY J. WILLETT**, Official Court Reporter
for the United States District Court, do hereby
certify that the foregoing pages are a true and
accurate transcription of my shorthand notes,
taken in the aforementioned matter, to the best
of my skill and ability.

/s/ Timothy J. Willette

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